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ZONE

MIDLANDS EDITION

ISSUE 222 £1.80 OCTOBER 2015

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GUIDE

**PRIDE IN
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A ROUND-UP
OF MIDLANDS
PRIDE EVENTS

**RAINBOW
FILM
FESTIVAL**
CELEBRATING
10 YEARS
OF LGBT
CINEMA



**CRAIG REVEL
HORWOOD**
EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW
WITH THE GAY ANNIE STAR
AND STRICTLY JUDGE

YEARS & YEARS

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Contents



Years & Years
Gay front-man Olli
heads to Brum **23**



Craig Revel Horwood
Exclusive interview with the Strictly
Judge and star of Annie **4**

Out and Proud
**Pride in
pictures 28**



Rainbow Film Festival 26
Celebrating the 10th anniversary



REGULARS:

News 8
Community II
Local Life Story 12
Style: Fashion 14
Style: Gadgets 16
Hotlist 23
OUT 37
Escort Directory 60
Gay Classified 61
Sauna Directory 62
The Last Word 66

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A full-page photograph of Craig Revel Horwood in a theatrical costume. He is wearing a long, patterned kimono over a pink corset and lace-trimmed shorts, with thigh-high stockings. He has a pink headscarf and is looking off-camera with a dramatic expression. The background is dark, suggesting a stage setting.

Craig Revel Horwood

Craig's currently, er, revelling in the rave reviews he's getting for starring as the emotionally challenged Miss Hannigan in a new touring production of *Annie*.

Recently catching up with him to talk about this latest role, Midlands Zone was pleased to discover that, in direct contrast to his well-managed public persona, Craig is really rather nice...

A young girl with long brown hair, wearing a green and white striped shirt, is focused on sewing at a vintage Singer sewing machine. The machine is on a wooden stand with two spools of thread (pink and white) on top. A piece of orange fabric is being sewn. The background is dark and out of focus.

"As for same-sex couples in *Strictly*, I say bring it on."

What appeals to you most about the role of Miss Hannigan, Craig?

I like the fact she's a villain, I love playing villains because they're just a lot more fun. There's a lot of depth to the character, which is good too. I also find the fact she's a gir-swinging woman who lusts after men and hates children attractive.

So what qualities do you have that make you ideal for the role?

I play her just as any actor would play her. I've invested in the character and hopefully the audience will believe in me. It's not a drag role, it's just me playing Miss Hannigan, that's all. There's no sight of Craig Revel Horwood in the show at all.

So how did the chance to play the part come about? Were you surprised to be approached? Was it an instant yes from you or did you need some time to think about it?

When I was first approached, my initial thought was that they were going to ask me to direct and choreograph. I'd done panto but hadn't done any serious acting for a long time, because I love directing and I love choreographing. I took a week to think it over. I read the script and really did love the character, so I thought, 'Yeah, why not, let's give it a bash and see how we get on'. That's how it came about and it's been a huge success.

Where did your research for Miss Hannigan take you?

I have an alcoholic father, so I'm quite 'in the know' about alcoholism. I know how alcoholics react because I lived with it as a child and grew up with it. I guess I'm a fountain of knowledge when it comes to that sort of thing. I've played women before. I once created a character called Lavish, but that was just for clubs so is slightly different to what I'm doing here. For Miss Hannigan, I studied the New York accent and visited an accent coach for guidance.

How're you finding the heels and make-up?

I've danced in heels before. I was doing a show where I first learned to dance as a woman, because it's very different to dancing as a man. Heels, of course, are a very big part of that, so I had a lot of blisters to begin with. They've subsided now and I've got used to it. Quite frankly, it's like putting on a pair of slippers now. I apply all my make-up myself. It took me a while initially but with practice it becomes faster. I arrive ninety minutes before the show and it takes that long to get ready.

You've got a proven record when it comes to dancing, choreography and directing, but how's your singing?

I think it's fantastic! I love it because it's right in my key and all the keys were specifically chosen for my vocal ability. It's something I used to do way back when anyway. I was in Miss Saigon for a long time, and I was also in Cats. At the end of the day, though, it's up to the person who's listening, not me, to make a decision on my vocal ability, but I do enjoy it.

They say you should never work with children or animals. How're you finding the experience?

Yes, they would be right! They're unpredictable, but the kids in the show are absolutely incredible and are really, really talented. There are three different Annies and three groups of orphans who play three days each. Each group then has a week off, so it works out perfectly well. They're tutored on the road as well, so that's pretty cool. They're actors and aspiring actors who've been selected from all over the UK and who want to go on and do this as a career, so they've been trained very, very well.

Do you have a pre-show routine that you go through to get into character?

Miss Hannigan opens the show at four o'clock in the morning, absolutely slaughtered out of her head - so I can't completely get into character until I'm at the door, otherwise I'd be falling all over the place! Mainly I just concentrate. I have a bit of quiet time before getting into character and going on stage.

Do you suffer pre-show nerves?

I always do because it's a live crowd and you never know what's going to happen. Each audience is different and the show itself is a little bit different every day, but I do think it's good to be nervous. It's my job to get up there, to play the character and play the part well, so I do get nervous.

Where are you most comfortable - in front of or behind the stage?

I prefer being in the dark, making people better, than performing, but that's because I've had such a long step off the stage - apart from with panto, of course. It's been great and I've loved being on tour. Every week is different. We get to go to another place and discover these lovely cities all over again. I'm enjoying that side of it.

As you mentioned earlier, you enjoy playing the villain. You played the Wicked Queen in Snow White, now Miss Hannigan in Annie, and later this year you'll be playing Captain Hook in Peter Pan. Do you ever yearn to play someone who's nice?

No, not at all. I like the villains. They get the best lines and the best parts. Being dark, sometimes sinister, is much more fun; far better than playing some boring old love interest.

Do you ever get tired of being called 'Craig Revel Horrid'?

No, I don't care. It's like water off a duck's back.

Has being back on the stage given you a taste for more in the future?

Yeah, definitely, I would most certainly consider doing it again, as I've enjoyed it enormously. It would be great to do a West End run, but we'll see what happens in the future. That's the beauty of this business and why I like it so much. You never know what you're going to be doing or what opportunities there will be. As

one door opens, another one closes and vice versa, so it's all very good.

What are your initial thoughts about the quality of this year's Strictly contestants?

Well, some of them can actually dance, which is a delight. I'm seeing some really lovely lines, some lovely arms and some lovely feet, so that's good. A couple of them got in a few high kicks too, which is wonderful. Then, equally, there are people who don't have much rhythm - so it should be fun seeing the dancers teaching them. Peter Andre looks like he'll be good. I suppose he could become a finalist because of his popularity - as well as the fact he can move quite well. He certainly looks like a front runner.

Who would be your ideal contestant on a future show?

Simon Cowell. He would be fantastic. That would be excellent.

Which previous dancer and/or routine still gives you a chuckle?

Ann Widdecombe. She's funny. I just think of her and it makes me laugh. She's actually become a friend now, because we did panto for two years after she was on Strictly and we danced together on the tour. We did forty-two shows dancing together on the tour and forty-two panto shows. We've sort of become a double act - and an unlikely one at that, which I think is quite good. She makes me laugh because she's just out there having fun and having a laugh with it. That's a great approach.

There's been a call for same-sex couples to be featured on the show. What's your opinion?

I think it's a good idea. I have no problem with it because there are same-sex competitions, and Strictly Come Dancing isn't entirely a dance competition. The winners aren't going to become world champions and do dance tours around the world, are they? I can't see any reason why it should be an issue on the show, although I can professionally. At that level it raises points about lifts and stuff like that, and certain things they do in the rule book. As for same-sex couples in Strictly, I say bring it on.

Post-Annie, what's next for Craig Revel Horrid, er, Horwood?

I go into panto in High Wycombe, where I'll be doing two shows a day, every day - except Saturdays because I'll be doing Strictly. Then, when Strictly finishes at Christmas, I continue in panto until the beginning of January. Then there's Strictly Come Dancing Live, which tours arenas across the country up until February.

Craig Revel Horwood will take the stage as Miss Hannigan 13 - 31 October at the Birmingham Hippodrome.

Birds of a Feather star Lesley Joseph will be playing Miss Hannigan at all Saturday performances: 17, 24, 31 October.

NHS**LEICESTER**

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Time: 3pm - 6pm

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City Celts Sauna Clinic:

Date: Every Wednesday

Time: 3pm - 5pm

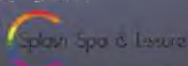
Place: City Celts Sauna, 33 New Bond Street, Leicester, LE1 4RQ

Splash Spa & Leisure Clinic:

Date: Every Thursday

Time: 3pm - 6pm

Place: Splash Spa & Leisure, 61 Bedford Street, Leicester, LE1 3JR



You can also check out **Trade Sexual Health**
www.tradesexualhealth.com

Information available at
www.leicestersexualhealth.nhs.uk

Service provided by Staffordshire and Stoke-On-Trent Partnership NHS Trust

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Galaxy is a youth group for young people aged 19 and under from Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or unsure.

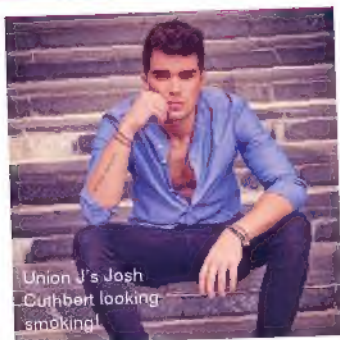


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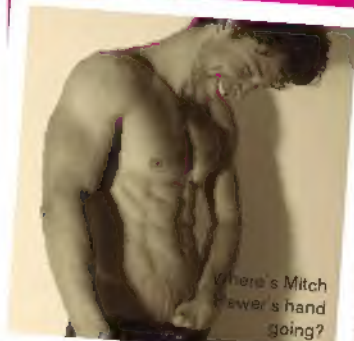
THE VIRAL ROUND UP

HERE'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN LOOKING AT ONLINE...

CELEB SNAPS! OUR FAVOURITE PICTURES FROM INSTAGRAM...



Union J's Josh Cuthbert looking smoking!



Where's Mitch Hewer's hand going?



Who'd like to tuck up next to Cristiano Ronaldo?

We all do it - spend hours on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Often, we're distracted from what we should be doing by cat videos and funny pranks - or by something feelgood that's been shared so much on the net it's officially classed as 'viral'. Well, here are some of Midlands Zone's favourites from the past month!

TOM DALEY: Hot diver bench presses fellow sportsperson in display of extreme fitness...

As you may know, here at Zone magazine we're huge fans of Tom Daley - so imagine our reaction to this...

The 21-year-old British Olympic diver shared a video to his Instagram account of him bench pressing his diving colleague, Georgia Ward. Obviously, to maintain an amazing, toned body like Tom's, a lot of training is required. So we guess that to keep things interesting, instead of using boring (yet functional) weights, his mates are the next best thing. Check it out here: bit.ly/1Kq8ibj



WATCH THIS! This video poking fun at the 'gay age gap', will give you a giggle!



We all know at least one gay couple who have a good gap in age between them - and we don't particularly care about it. But there surely must be some pitfalls to being a decade or so apart in age - and this video hilariously depicts just a few of them! Anyway, if you're keen to watch it, tap in this address: youtu.be/NmRh1StLDNs

Birmingham trans woman wins LGBT role model honour at National Diversity Awards

A trans woman from Birmingham has received the prestigious Positive LGBT Role Model honour at the annual National Diversity Awards, an event which pays tribute to grass-root communities nationwide.

Community 'heroes' from across the UK gathered in Liverpool last month to celebrate the achievements of those who have demonstrated their 'outstanding devotion to diversity, equality and inclusion'.

@TransGirlsCan campaigner **Megan Key** beat seven other nominees to win the Positive Role Model Award in the LGBT category.

Public sector worker Megan has been described as 'an exemplary role model within the National Probation Service'. Moving from Probation Officer to Equalities Manager in the Midlands division, she is responsible for strategic design and delivery of equality and inclusion for service users and employees.

Since choosing to live visibly as a transgender woman three years ago, Megan has been active in highlighting trans issues and promoting acceptance. The impact she's had on the lives of trans people and, as a result, members of other minority groups was described by judges as 'phenomenal'.

Dedicated to raising awareness at all levels and throughout the country, Megan volunteers as a trustee for Wolverhampton-based charity Gender Matters. She also works with schools in Birmingham to promote trans awareness and represents her trades union at the TUC LGBT conference.



Filmmaker, comedy writer and star of My Transsexual Summer Lewis Hancox described Megan as "an incredible role model who thoroughly deserves recognition".

The National Diversity Awards received a record 20,000 nominations and votes this year.

Wolves Pride heads indoors for 2015 due to funding cuts

As a result of funding cuts, the format of Wolves Pride has changed for 2015, with the festival moving inside the city's new LGBT Centre.

Wolverhampton LGBT Network is holding the Pride Inside event on Saturday 3 October, from 1pm.

Martha Bishop, Chief Executive of LGBT Network Wolverhampton, said: "Our focus has been on securing larger premises and gaining funding to cover our overheads, to ensure core services are maintained. An outdoor Wolves Pride with a parade has infrastructure costs of almost £10,000 and we just don't have the funding to do that this year.

"Rather than no Pride at all, we decided to use our fabulous new building and put on a range of activities. It wouldn't be possible without the working partnership we have with Wolverhampton City Council, Wolverhampton Homes and Wolverhampton University, who are longstanding supporters of Pride in Wolverhampton. We're proud that this is still a community event rather than a commercial one, with local LGBT groups being the heart of Wolves Pride.

"The LGBT Network would like to thank all those involved in the previous years' events. As a small community group, we're proud to have brought Pride to Wolverhampton and organised it for the last three years, and we're now looking forward to our fourth event."

Wolves Pride 2015 features a Queer Question Time - hosted by LGBT and human rights campaigner Peter Tatchell - a cabaret stage, a live music stage, stalls, workshops and talks.

Birmingham 'queer arts' festival returns for a seventh year

Birmingham's Queer Arts Festival SHOUT returns in November for a seventh year, with event organisers confident the 2015 get-together will feature the best line-up yet.

Festival highlights include:

- **The Sissy's Progress** at mac Birmingham - part installation, part dance-theatre and part walking performance, join Nando Messias in his response to an act of homophobic hatred.
- **All The Nice Girls** at The Wellington Hotel, Southside - an entertaining glimpse at the lives of Gwen Farrar and Norah Blaney through the eyes of male impersonator Ella Shields.
- The return of **Polari Literary Salon** at mac Birmingham - after last year's sell-out event, book your tickets soon!
- An evening of female comedy with **MY Comedy** at The Penthouse, above The Loft



Lounge, Southside - alongside resident MC Maureen Younger will be Jo Enright (The Job's Lot), VG Lee (Polari) and Bethany Black (Cucumber).

SHOUT runs from 12 to 22 November. The first section of the programme is now on sale

at www.shoutfestival.co.uk.

Look out for Midlands Zone's expansive feature on SHOUT Festival in the November issue of Midlands Zone, which hits the streets on Wednesday 28 October!

GET ALL THE LATEST NEWS AS IT HAPPENS AT MIDLANDSZONE.CO.UK

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/midlandszone and on Twitter at www.twitter.com/midlandszone



'State of the art' Wolverhampton nightclub to swing open its doors this month following re-location

One of Wolverhampton's busiest gay venues is set to move into new premises at the beginning of this month following a four month extensive refurbishment on premises previously occupied by a restaurant.

On Saturday 3rd October the venue, which has traded on School Street since its creation on 2010, is moving across the road to new premises.

Club bosses say that the club will feature three times the existing capacity, VIP Booths and an Executive Lounge. The all-new Gorgeous will be a 'lavish, state of the art jewel in Wolverhampton's nightlife crown'.

Work began on the project back in June after a deal was agreed between club bosses and

site owners House of Fraser. Company General Manager **Shaun Keasey** said: "We've been working hard with colleagues to create a design that would turn such a large space into an amazing club. There's been a lot of too-ing and fro-ing, but eventually we agreed on a final layout which is the one customers will see when they enter the venue for the first time."

Operations Manager **Dale Murphy** said of the new venue: "In some ways the creation of the new club is the easy part, the challenge is to ensure that our customers have an amazing experience and are made to feel safe and free to enjoy a night off from everyday life!

"Gorgeous is now a significant employer within Wolverhampton and has created three

full time and fifteen part time jobs. We are hoping to become part of The City Pledge which will help local people gain valuable work experience in their search for future opportunities."

Chart toppers **Stooshe** will be headlining the grand opening night with hits such as 'Waterfalls', 'Slip' and 'Black Heart' and support will come from Gorgeous DJs Paul Bryant, James Levett, Rob Cook, Chris E Murphy, Abeyance and Joe Campbell.

Open from 9pm until 6am, music will range from chart toppers, disco classics and dance anthems early doors. Whilst funky, filthy house and bassline monsters will continue through the night.



Gay digital radio station launched in Birmingham and surrounding areas

Gay digital radio station Gaydio, the UK's only full-time LGBT radio station, has been launched in Birmingham and the surrounding areas.

Commenting on the launch, Toby Whitehouse, Station Director, said: "Gaydio is already available online throughout the UK, and with almost half of the population now owning a DAB radio, we want to make the station more easily available across the country. Our existing DAB services for Lon-

don & Sussex, along with our FM licence in Manchester, means that around 20million people will be able to listen to the station on their DAB or FM radios."

Gaydio is the UK's only radio broadcaster for the LGBT community with a monthly audience of 850,000 listeners. The station plays the latest dance and pop music and has speech content specifically targeted at LGBT people.

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Midlands LGBTs one step closer to accessing PrEP via the NHS

Midlands-based members of the gay community who're most at risk of HIV transmission may soon be able to access PrEP via the NHS

HIV charity Terrence Higgins Trust has welcomed the peer-reviewed publication of the PROJD study, conducted in England, that proves PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) effectively prevents HIV

Publication of the data in a peer review journal means the ground-breaking daily pill that effectively protects people most at risk from HIV transmission could soon be an NHS reality

Dr Michael Brady, Terrence Higgins Trust Medical Director, said: "The efficacy of this treatment as a HIV prevention tool is clear. The Lancet publication is an essential step towards ensuring access to PrEP for those who need it

"We are campaigning for PrEP to be available on the NHS. For this to happen the treatment needs to be approved by NHS England, and the publication of the impressive PROJD results in a peer

review journal will support this process.

"Like HIV treatment, the history of HIV prevention has evolved over time. A 'combination approach' to HIV prevention is possible, and we need access to PrEP now."

Approximately 2,600 MSM (men who have sex with men) are infected with HIV each year, and this figure has not really changed over the last decade. Condoms are effective, but consistent condom use is not always a reality. The PROJD study clearly showed that PrEP was highly effective at preventing HIV infection among MSM in a real life setting

Those most at risk of HIV transmission need a range of options and choices to best meet their individual needs and circumstances. PrEP, with other prevention interventions such as condom use, behaviour change, regular HIV testing and treatment itself (the chance of HIV transmission if on ART - HIV therapy is negligible) must be a part of this

Get ready for a Rainbow Ramble and see the sights of Walsall

The Midlands LGBT community have been invited on a 'Rainbow Ramble' through Walsall, to learn about some of its history and see some of its sights.

The walk, which takes place on Saturday 3 October takes participants on a trip through the town, stopping off at The New Art Gallery, the Leather Museum and the Arboretum. The trip will be led by Simon Backhouse, who's lived in the town for many years. Simon guarantees those taking part will learn something they didn't know before, including facts about Walsall's gay life

Participants on the walk are being asked to meet outside The New Art Gallery from 10.30am, with a view to getting started at 11am.

The route is largely urban, easy, flat and paved but isn't suitable for dogs, due to the need to cross busy roads.

If you want to join the Rainbow Rambles for this tour of Walsall, simply turn up. They promise you'll meet some new friends

The final Rainbow Ramble of 2015 takes place on Monday 28 December in central Birmingham

Introducing Umbrella: A new sexual health service for Birmingham and Solihull

A new sexual health service is delivering improved support for LGBT people across Birmingham and Solihull.

Called Umbrella, it focuses on health promotion and preventative care for the community with free, confidential, non-judgmental support and treatment for people of all ages, genders and sexual orientations. The service is being run by University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (UHB), working in partnership with Birmingham LGBT and a number of other partners. The unique network of local providers includes six NHS clinics, as well as almost 100 pharmacists, GPs and third sector partners.

The aim is to deliver better sexual health outcomes by providing people with the knowledge to avoid sexually transmitted infection and HIV, and to know how to seek help if they're experiencing sexual coercion or violence. Men who have sex with men (MSM), who suffer disproportionately from high rates of STIs and HIV, are a key group who require improved interventions.

Supported by UHB, Birmingham LGBT will provide an enhanced sexual wellbeing service to all sections of the LGBT community. This includes targeted interventions and clinics for trans people and lesbian/bisexual women.

There will be a phased roll-out of new services. Initially, the services previously offered by Healthy Gay Life will continue to operate but in a new venue: the Birmingham LGBT Centre on Holloway Circus.

There will be advice and support around sexual health and testing, free condoms and lube and a new drop-in, symptomatic clinic, with extended opening hours from midday to 8pm every Thursday. Self-sampling kits will also be available from the LGBT Centre during its regular opening hours

Over the next 12 months, Umbrella and Birmingham LGBT will implement the following services:

- Seven days a week, 12 hours a day access to advice and support, plus self-sampling
- A monthly transsexual wellbeing clinic
- A monthly Well Woman clinic with a sexual health focus
- More outreach and testing in community venues
- A peer mentoring programme focused on HIV prevention
- A range of information and resources for the LGBT community on sexual health and healthy relationships

Umbrella will also aim to improve access to services generally that should result in increased testing, leading to increased chlamydia diagnosis rates in the 15- to 24 age group and reduced late HIV diagnoses.

The initiative is looking for prompt access to diagnosis and treatment, supplemented by partner notification, health promotion and individual behavioural interventions within clinics to address high-risk sexual behaviour and alcohol or substance misuse problems.

The target is fewer repeat STIs and less



transmission of HIV, STIs and blood-borne viruses (BBV) within the population.

In addition, a new Umbrella/LGBT Independent Sexual Violence Advocate will ensure the LGBT community is more aware of the issue and will increase identification of and support for victims of sexual exploitation. You can order free self-sampling kits - which will test for HIV, chlamydia, syphilis, Hep B and gonorrhoea - locate your nearest clinic or book an appointment via the website: www.umbrellahealth.co.uk



Larna Gallier

**Hate Crime Development Worker
Birmingham LGBT
Birmingham**

Born: Worcester
Star sign: Libra
Age: 47

About Larna

Where did you grow up, Larna?

I grew up in the small, riverside town of Bewdley in Worcestershire, surrounded by quaint old Georgian architecture, the Severn Valley Railway and lovely green countryside with the River Severn flowing through it.

Single or attached?

I'm single

What makes you happy?

There's so many things in my life that make me happy, where do I start? I'd have to say that being creative probably is one of the things that makes me happy. I love the process of having a starting point, developing an idea and then expanding on that idea until you've created something unique. Also, supporting other people gives me a great sense of satisfaction. To help and support another person is a wonderful thing, especially if they go away with a more positive outlook on life.

What makes you sad?

Intolerance and narrow-mindedness sadden me. That's probably why I'm interested in equality and diversity issues. It initially started out as just an interest in LGBT stuff, but my interest has broadened because of the people I work with and support. It saddens me when people don't get along. Usually it's because of something trivial.

What makes you angry?

It takes a lot to make me angry. I'm a pretty tolerant person. I've put up with all sorts of stuff. I don't like being angry - it brings out an ugly side of me. I don't really like

If you could change any one thing about yourself, what would it be?

This is a difficult question to answer. I could say that I wish I'd been born a natural woman, instead of being born a transgendered woman. My life would certainly have been a lot easier. But growing up male and transgendered has taught me so much about myself and about other people. I truly believe I'm a better person for being given what I initially viewed as a curse when I was younger - but now I see it as a blessing. I've had experiences, opportunities and events happen in my life that I never would've had if I was cis-gendered. Also, being trans has taught me to be a more tolerant, compassionate and caring person.

What's been the most embarrassing thing you've done in your life?

I once approached a man in a department store where he was trying on women's coats, with his wife in attendance. I facilitated a transgender group at the time, so thought I'd let the gentleman know that there was a trans group locally to him which he could come along and join if he wanted to dress in female clothing and express his gender identity in a safe and secure space. I went up, introduced myself and told him all about the trans group. I helped facilitate, and said that if he wanted to come along he'd be made most welcome. There was a long silence and a look of bewilderment, whereupon he replied, "Oh I'm not trans - my mother-in-law is the same size as me, and I'm just trying on the women's coats to see which one would fit her best. My wife wants to buy her mom a new one". My intention may have been a good one but I so misread the situation!

Now that same-sex marriage has been legalised, would you consider getting married?

I think it's brilliant - and if I choose to marry someone of the same gender then I can now. Love is love.

Coming Out

When did you first know you were transgendered?

I first knew I was different when I was about six or seven, although I didn't know what being transgendered was back then. We didn't have computers or internet phones to look up information on 'identity'. I thought I was the only person in the world like me at the time.

When did you come out?

I came out when I was in my early 30s. I was married at the time with a daughter, I owned my own home, had a great job, was reasonably well off - but despite all this I was so lonely and unhappy with myself. The feelings I had about myself just consumed my every thought. I didn't know at the time that I was suffering with depression and gender dysphoria. Eventually I sought help from my GP - and so began my adventure.

What was school like for you as a transgendered teenager?

I sort of enjoyed school, in a strange way. I've always liked learning - discovering new things and finding out new stuff. I buried my feelings about being transgendered so deep down that you'd have needed one of those deep-salvage submarines to find them. Even when I was young, I understood at the time that being trans wasn't accepted. It was bad enough being picked on and bullied because I was tall, but being

trans and tall - the other kids would've had a field day.

Who was the first person you told you were trans, and what was their reaction?

The first person I told was a friend at work. He struggled with anxiety, and I used to talk to him about it, hoping it would help him. We became good friends. I knew he was quite an open-minded sort of guy. He'd worked in the film and theatre industry, and although he wasn't gay himself, many of the people he'd worked with had been. He accepted people no matter who they were. One day I just came out with it and hoped he'd keep what I'd told him to himself, which he did thankfully.

What would you say to a youngster trying to come to terms with their own sexuality or gender identity?

Be yourself, live your life and not other people's version of you. Love yourself, like yourself, and never let anyone tell you that you're worthless or wrong. You may have bad days, helpess days and days of 'why me?', but all things are equal and you'll also have days when life is nothing but wonderful!

Your Career

What do you do for a living?

I work for Birmingham LGBT at the moment as a Hate Crime Development Worker, working on a project funded by the Equality & Human Rights Commission. Birmingham LGBT is one of 31 other organisations from around the country helping to raise awareness of LGBT Hate Crime as part of a national project and campaign. As part of the project, training has been developed to help improve the understanding of various agencies in supporting victims of Trans Hate Crime. I also facilitate the Trans Centre Group at the Birmingham LGBT Centre. The group just celebrated its second year.

When you were younger, what did you want to be?

I've always had a great interest in illustration and graphic design - and although I haven't had the success I'd hoped for, I've had some opportunities to share my talents.

What was your first job after leaving school?

I worked for a printing company as a graphic designer, designing letterheads, logos and small pieces of artwork. Everything was done by hand, I didn't have computers to help me with the design process, like you do today. Photo-shop and other such programs hadn't been invented, everything was hand rendered.

We've all got a dream job, what's yours?

I really enjoy working with people so a job as a support worker, facilitator or as a lecturer or teacher is my kind of dream job. I also wouldn't mind being a professional illustrator and artist.

Trans Scene

What's your fondest memory of the Midlands gay and trans scene?

Being able to be free to express my identity and individuality, sharing in some truly wonderful moments with my friends, and helping support and inspire other people along the way.

How long have you been frequenting the Midlands gay and trans scene?

I've been part of this lovely community for nearly 15 years!

What do you enjoy most about the Midlands gay and trans scene?

I don't tend to go out so much nowadays, but I always used to love the vibrancy and diversity of the people I met. It made me feel I was part of something very special. I've had some very enjoyable times with friends at various clubs and events.

Who's your favourite cabaret act on the gay scene?

I love them all! I can't choose just one. They're all very special people.

Who's your favourite person on the gay scene?

Dan Williams. I've spent many a happy hour on the dancefloor lost in the hedonism of the music he played and the wonderful atmosphere around me.

What have you noticed about the way the gay and trans scene's changed over the years?

I was more into the trans scene. Often meetings were held in gay venues. I think initially the trans community was very much about bars and clubs - safe spaces where they could express their identity without fear of prejudice. But, like the gay - and let's not forget the bi - community, people have grown older and their tastes change. I've noticed the whole LGBT community engaged in a much wider and broader scene from holidays and sports activities to music and the arts, and so on. Although there will always be a special place for cheesy pop, people have moved on.

How would you change the Midlands gay and trans scene?

I've not been around the gay scene for a while, and I was only really into the pubs and clubs. I think society has become a lot more integrated, and this has had an impact on the mainstream scene itself. I've noticed bars and clubs have become more accessible to a wider audience.

Time Out

Where do you like to go on a night out?

I'm partial to a popcorn moment at the cinema now and again, and I love eating out with friends and family.

What do you do to relax?

I loving being creative. I trained to be an illustrator and artist, so I love to lose myself in being creative. I've also done a little story writing and hope to marry the two together at some point.

What do you enjoy on telly?

The Big Bang Theory. I love Sheldon. I also like anything on history, art and culture.

What was the last album you bought?

Lindsey Sterling. She's a cross between hip-hop and classic violin.

What website do you spend the most time on?

If I'm truthful, Facebook.

**What type of holiday do you prefer?**

I like mooching holidays, to explore and wander around your surroundings. I don't do lying on a beach, I look like the flotsam and jetsam brought in by the tide.

Quickfire

Who's your favourite actor?

Bradley Cooper

What's your favourite book?

I have a few. Sharon Griffiths The Accidenta, Time Traveler, James McGee's Resurrectionist and James Herbert's The Magic Cottage.

Half empty or half full?

Half full and get a bigger jug!

What's your favourite food?

I love all food. It's hard to choose but I do love any kind of seafood.

And how about your favourite drink?

A Dark and Stormy. Dark rum with ice and good, strong ginger beer.

Madonna or Lady Gaga?

Madonna, if I have to choose between the two - but I'm more of a Kanye sort of person, to tell the truth.

If you could take a selfie with one person, dead or alive, who would it be?

The American artist Norman Rockwell. I grew up inspired by much of his work as an artist.

GET YOUR KNIT ON!

It's time to start wrapping up warm for autumn!



01 Burgundy Roll Neck Jumper

Look sharp this autumn with this popular burgundy roll neck jumper. The fine gauge knit will certainly help to keep you warm without sacrificing style and quality.

£22.00

www.burton.co.uk

02 Striped Knitted Jumper

Through a bit of colour into your wardrobe with this fine-knit jumper. Made of a cotton blend with some wool, this colourful rib-knitted piece will certainly turn heads when out and about.

£29.99

www.hm.com

03 Wool-blend Cable-knit Jumper

There's plenty of knit styles out there, but one of the staple classics is this cable-knit design. Made from a soft wool blend, this beige jumper will look great paired with a pair of black skinny jeans.

£29.99

www.hm.com

04 Navy Shoulder Patch Waffle Knit Jumper

If you're looking for a jumper that's a bit more chunky than the rest, this waffle-knit piece will suit you down to the ground. Featuring shoulder patches and simple long sleeves.

£19.99

www.newlook.com

05 Grey Raglan Textured Crew Neck Jumper

If you're looking for a solid coloured jumper, this grey raglan mid-gauge knitted jumper hits the mark.

£30.00

www.burton.co.uk

06 Waffle-knit Jumper

Here's another waffle-knit jumper but this time, a bit simpler. If green isn't your colour, then don't worry as H&M offer the same style in five different colours. Made with a cotton blend.

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01 Sphero BB-8

One for all the Star Wars fans out there, the BB-8 will be more than a Droid. It'll be your companion too! App-enabled, you can guide BB-8 using your smart phone, tablet or voice, and create and view holographic videos too. **£129.99**
www.flrebox.com

02 Apple TV

The all-new Apple TV was announced last month and lets you watch movies, TV shows, Netflix, listen to music and more! The biggest addition to the new Apple TV is the ability to play games! We're going to be added. **Coming Soon**
www.apple.com/uk

03 Apple iPhone 6s & 6s Plus

Without doubt one of the most popular smart phones in the world, the new iPhone 6s & 6s Plus is the same phone we all know and love, but with so many new features. An all-new camera, 3D Touch and iOS 9! **From £539.00**
www.apple.com/uk

04 Roomba 980

Cleaning your house just got a hell of a lot easier! The new Roomba 980 vacuum cleaning robot is now Wi-Fi connected, allowing users to remotely schedule cleaning sessions on the go. If you're lazy, this is for you! **Coming Soon**
www.irobot.co.uk

05 iPad Pro

Just when you thought that the iPad couldn't get any bigger, it did. Featuring a 12.9-inch Retina display and nearly double the performance of the iPad Air 2, this beast is great for professional use... or if you just want a big screen! **Coming November**
www.apple.com/uk

06 Apple Pencil

To go with your shiny new iPad Pro, pick up the Apple Pencil. A great tool for artists, creating work on the iPad Pro will be so much easier with this little gadget, allowing you to draw lines of any weight, just by using pressure. **Coming November**
www.apple.com/uk

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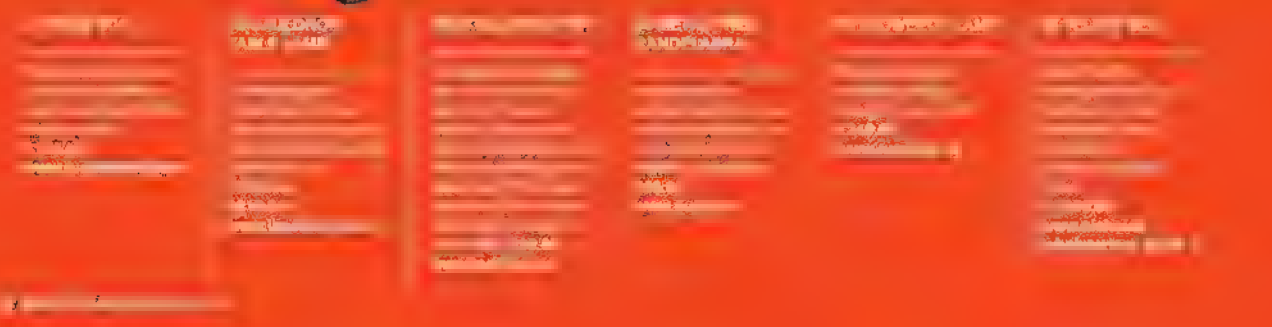
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Men's Grooming Essentials

A lot of men have a strict grooming routine to get us through the day. Whether you're heading to work, for a night out on the gay scene or out on a date, you'll always be wanting to look your best. So here's a number of products that we've hand selected to make you look and feel great every day.



01 Lab Series MAX LS Age-less Power V Lifting Cream

We're all slowly growing old, so why not beat the wrinkles with this lifting cream? It helps to tighten the skin and reduces sagging, helping the skin to look younger.

£54.00
boots.com

02 Apothecary87 Original Beard Oil

If you've got a beard, then be sure to grab a bottle of beard oil. Using it will not only condition dry hair and skin, but it'll help your beard to grow faster, stronger and thicker!

£34.00
apothecary87.co.uk

03 Oral-B Pro 6000 Smart Series Electric Toothbrush

We all brush our teeth, but do you do it with top tech? This electric toothbrush connects via Bluetooth to your smart phone to help you guide your brushing.

£100
amazon.co.uk

04 Clinique Happy for Men Body and Hair Wash

This body wash leaves your skin feeling smooth, refreshed and smelling great.

£22.00
boots.com

05 Philips BG2036 Bodygroom

If you like to shave below the neck, then this is the

body groomer for you! Shave and trim with precision, whilst protecting your skin.

£55.00
amazon.co.uk

06 ManCave Conditioning Style Cream

The ManCave Conditioning Style Cream is a lightly fragranced premium multifunction

hair styling pomade and leave-in conditioner.

£9.50
boots.com

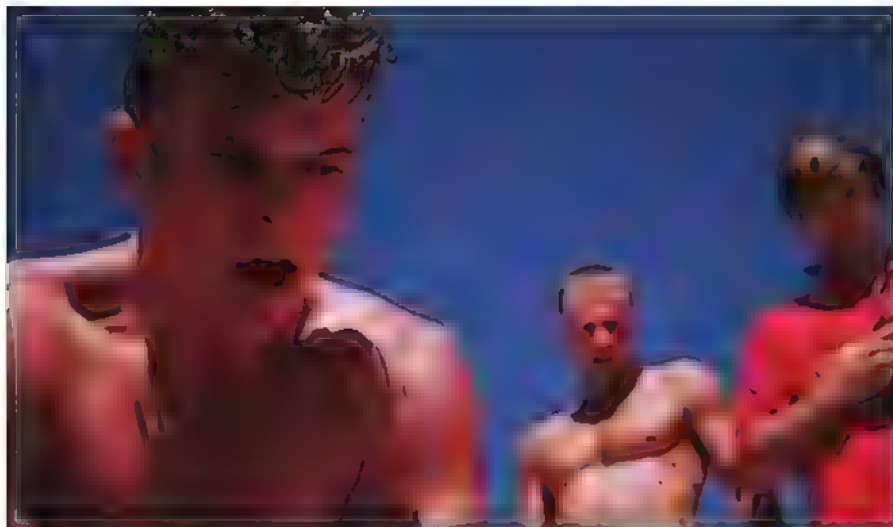
07 Brisk Beard Shampoo

If you've got a grizzly beard, then this shampoo is for you! It'll leave it clean, soft and manageable.

£4.99
boots.com

That's Entertainment!

This month's hot new DVD, music and book releases...

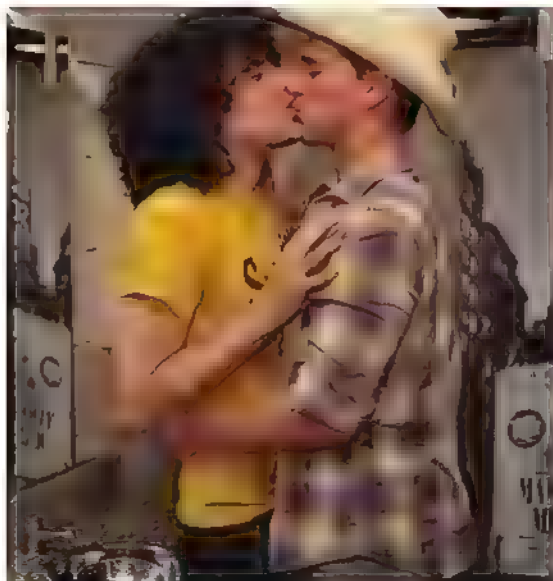


DVD DROWN (18)

Len is a lifesaving champion, a legend in his lifetime. But when the younger, faster and fitter Phil arrives at the club and saves a young boy on his first day, it seems Len is no longer on top of his game.

His confused feelings for Phil cause him to react violently. When Phil wins the annual Sydney Lifesaving competition – a competition Len has won five times previously – Len finally comes face to face with a fundamental question: Will he accept the truth about his identity or will he ultimately drown?

The movie is available on DVD and on-demand from Monday 12 October.



DVD JESS & JAMES (18)

Jess is a bohemian youth with secrets to hide from his parents. James, meanwhile, feels trapped living with his irritable mother. After meeting for a sexual encounter, the two young men set off on a spontaneous road trip across rural Argentina to reunite with Jess's estranged brother. On their journey, they engage in a ménage à trois

affair that brings them closer. Jess & James is a sexually charged road-trip movie, a love story and a coming-of-age tale, set against the mythical landscape of the Argentinian Pampas.

Jess & James is available on DVD from Monday 12 October.

BOOK BINGE

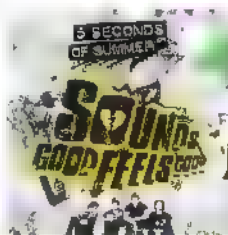
by Tyler Oakley

Gay pop-culture tastemaker Tyler Oakley has amassed more than 10 million social media followers through his humorous, no-holds-barred YouTube videos, high-profile interviews and social rights advocacy. After uploading his first video eight years ago, Oakley took the Internet by storm. With successes ranging from interviews with First Lady Michelle Obama and boy band One Direction to a worldwide, multi-city live tour and a record-breaking social media following, Oakley is a YouTube icon. In his first book, Binge, Tyler shares a shocking number of mishaps and shenanigans. From a rage blackout in a cheesecake factory and a fashion stand-off with America's secret service in the White House, through to projectile vomiting while bartering with a grandmother, Binge will really open your eyes to Tyler's crazy life.



TYLER OAKLEY

Binge by Tyler Oakley is available to buy on Tuesday 20 October.



MUSIC SOUNDS GOOD FEELS GOOD

by 5 Seconds of Summer

The second album from the Australian superstars, featuring Top 20 hit 'She's Kinda Hot'.

Sounds Good Feels Good is available to buy from Friday 23 October.

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MON 14 DEC - SAT 2 JAN 2016

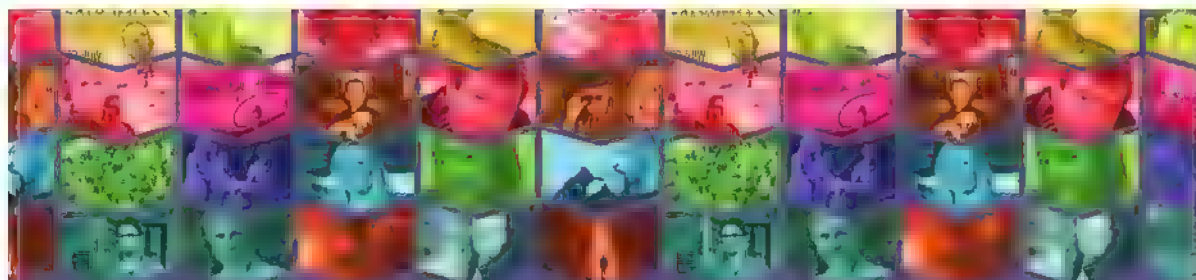
ROCKY HORROR SHOW
MON 25 - SAT 30 JAN 2016

Breakfast Tiffany's

Sister Act
MON 12 - SAT 13 SEP 2016

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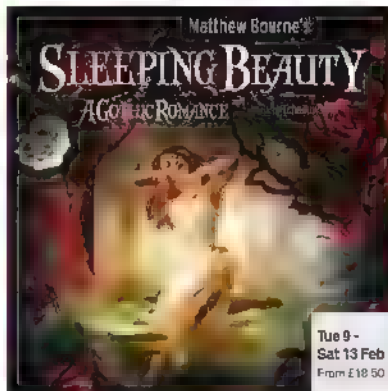
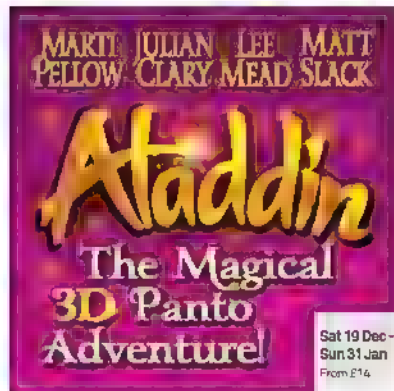
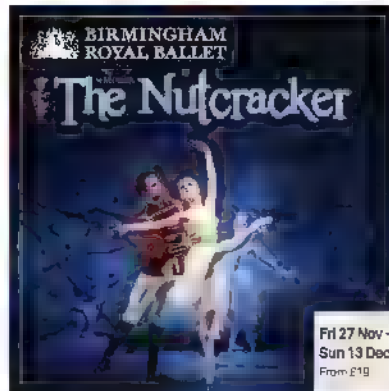
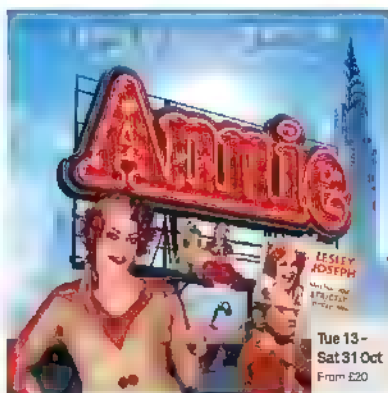
ALAN AHLBERG
RITA DOVE, former US Poet Laureate
Rev'd Richard Coles
Meera Syal in conversation with Tanika Gupta
Tracey Thorn & Ben Watt (Everything But The Girl)
Stuart Maconie

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hotlist

THIS MONTH'S HOT EVENTS & THINGS TO SEE AND DO

1

O2 Academy, Birmingham, Fri 9 Oct; Rock City, Nottingham, Sun 11 Oct

Years & Years - made up by openly gay Oli, Emre and Mikey - have had a pretty amazing 2015. Their debut album *Communion*, reached the album chart top spot and they enjoyed huge success with singles such as *King and Shine*. Off the back of all this, the boys are going out on their biggest tour yet, visiting the Midlands this very month



2

FIERCE FESTIVAL

Venues across Birmingham City Centre, Wed 7 - Sun 11 Oct

The Birmingham-based international festival of cross art form performance returns - and boy, is it looking great! Embracing theatre, dance, music, installations, activism and parties, *Fierce* really is offering something for everyone. Our highlight is Simone Augher's *Supernatural*. A hotly anticipated dance piece, the work presents a thought-provoking exploration of the subject of gender roles.

Find out more about *Fierce Festival* at www.werefierce.org



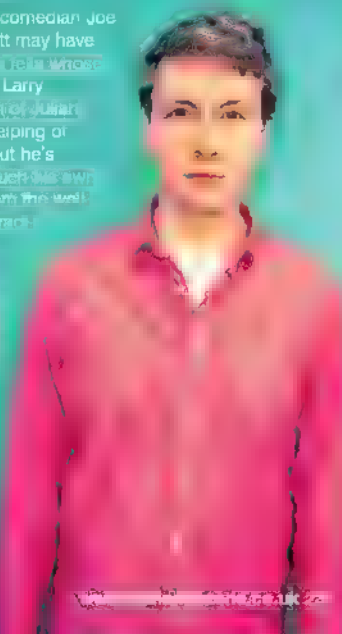
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JOE LYCETT

The Glee Club, Birmingham, Wed 14 Oct; Gorham Arts Complex, Warwickshire, Sat 17 Oct

Gay comedian Joe Lycett may have

been described as a 'Joke Who F*cks', but his act blends a little of Larry Grayson and a dash of Julian Clary with a large helping of Kenneth Williams - but he's nonetheless very much his own man! Joe comes from the well-established British tradition of charismatic camp comedians, presenting a somewhat risqué act that ably showcases his impressive capacity for mischief-making.



4

THE FULL MONTY

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
Mon 26 - Sat 31 Sep

This month sees the return of Simon Beaufoy's acclaimed staging of one of the most successful British screen comedies of all time. Starring the drop-dead gorgeous Gary Lucy (EastEnders/Footballers' Wives) as well as Andrew Dunn (Dinnerladies), Nouri Smerick (Brookside), Rupert Hill (Family Affairs), Martin Hill and Bobby Schofield, *The Full Monty* tells the story of six unemployed steelworkers who decide to put their kits off to earn some much-needed cash. Expect plenty of exposed backs as the lads strut their stuff to the songs of Don McLean, Rod Stewart, Hot Chocolate and Tom Jones.



5

CEN DUPREE EYECONS

Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton
Tues 13 Oct, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
Fri 23 Oct

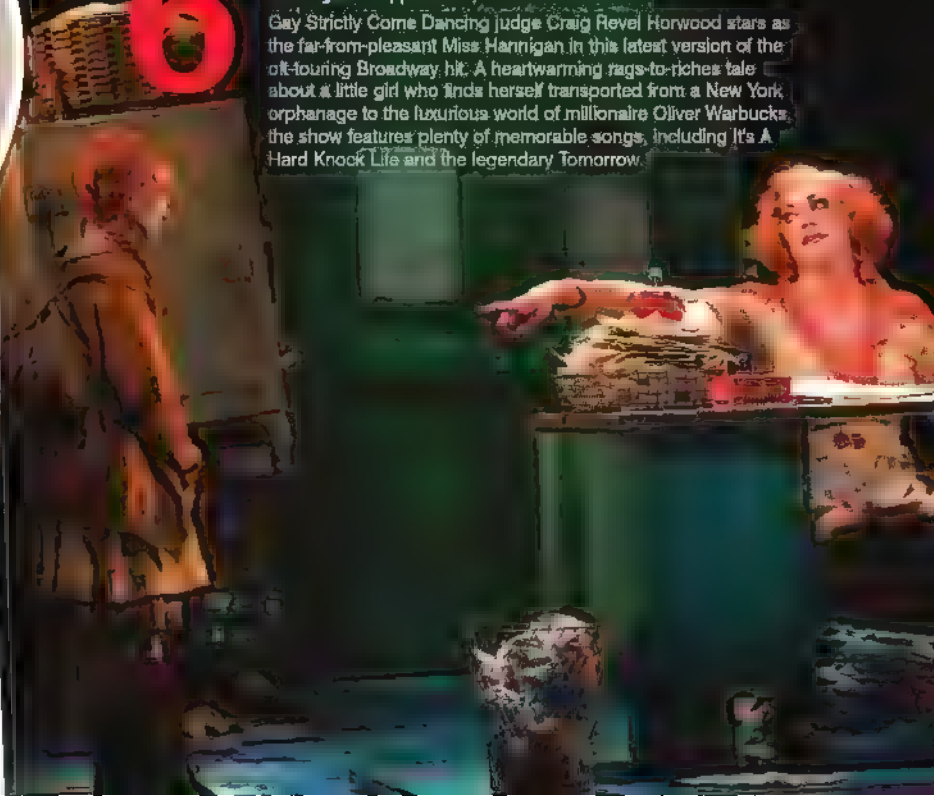
Female impersonator Cen Dupree was once described as a cross between Joe Longthorne and Lily Savage - only with better legs! Well known to Midlands theatregoers following recent pantomime stints, Cen returns with a brand new show. Expect 'a sensational evening of visual comedy, impressions, music and thousands of pounds-worth of astounding, jaw-dropping costumes'.

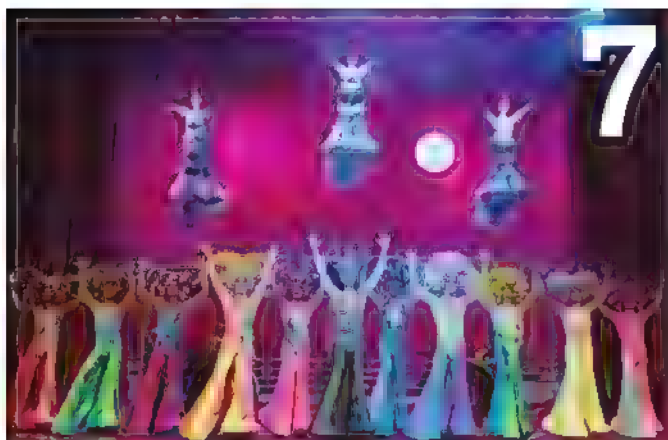
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ANNIE

Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 13 - Sat 31 Oct

Gay Strictly Come Dancing judge Craig Revel Horwood stars as the far-from-pleasant Miss Hannigan in this latest version of the oft-touring Broadway hit. A heartwarming rags-to-riches tale about a little girl who finds herself transported from a New York orphanage to the luxurious world of millionaire Oliver Warbucks, the show features plenty of memorable songs, including *It's A Hard Knock Life* and the legendary *Tomorrow*.





PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT

New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham,
Tues 20 - Sat 24 Oct

Get your drag out of your wardrobe, put your makeup on and jump into those heels! Priscilla is back in the Midlands this month - and boy, do we love it! Jason Donovan returns in the role of Tick - the part he played when the show originally opened in the West End.

Based on the cult movie all gays love, Priscilla the stage show has wowed both West End and Broadway audiences, picking up a coveted Olivier Award and an equally prestigious Tony Award along the accolade-strewn way.

At its heartland is an uplifting story of the friendship shared between three pals, who hop aboard a battered old bus and head off in search of love and romance. If you love camp you'll love this!



RUBY WAX

The REP, Birmingham, Sun
25 Oct; Palace Theatre,
Redditch, Thurs 29 Oct

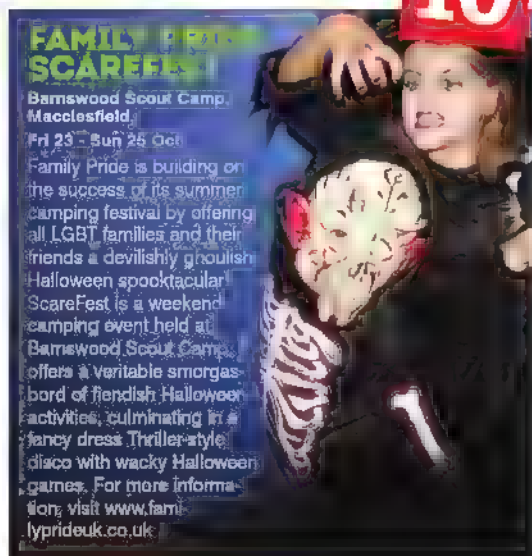
In a career that's never really seemed to slow down, Ruby Wax has been not only a stand-up comedian but also among other roles a chat show host, an actress and a script editor. She's now days forging a career for herself away from the limelight too, having studied Psychotherapy and gained a Master's degree in Mindfulness-based Cognitive Behavioural Therapy from Oxford University. Reflecting her new-found knowledge this touring show explores how people's own thinking can sometimes sabotage their sanity.



RAINBOW FILM FESTIVAL

Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, Fri 16 - Sun 18 Oct

The annual Shropshire Rainbow Film Festival celebrates its 10th anniversary with a fantastic line-up of movies for the entire LGBT community to enjoy. Across the three-day festival you'll be able to watch feature films and numerous shorts. In fact, the whole festival, which Midlands Zone is sponsoring, has an entire feature dedicated to it in this very issue, so check out what's on over on p26. We'll see you at the festival!



FAMILY PRIDE SCAREFEST

Barnwood Scout Camp,
Macclesfield

Fri 23 - Sun 25 Oct

Family Pride is building on the success of its summer camping festival by offering all LGBT families and their friends a devilishly ghoulish Halloween spooktacular! ScareFest is a weekend camping event held at Barnwood Scout Camp, offers a veritable smorgasbord of fiendish Halloween activities, culminating in a fancy dress Thriller-style disco with wacky Halloween games. For more information, visit www.familyprideuk.co.uk



SCEPTRE

CERT TBC

Daniel Craig returns (for the last time) as 007 and is sent on a mission to uncover a secret organisation (Spectre) that is really, really bad news. The theme song, 'Writing's On The Wall', will be sung by Sam Smith. And, of course Dame Judi will be sorely missed. Released 26 October



HALLOWEEN GAY SCENE EVENTS

Various gay venues across the
Midlands, Thurs 28 - Sun 1 Nov

The Midlands gay scene loves Halloween. It's a chance to don the fancy dress and have a ghoulishly good time at any number of spooktacularly splendid parties. Check the OUT Diary for full details!

10TH ANNIVERSARY FOR

A showcase of some of the best in

Following on from its successes in previous years, the Shropshire Rainbow Film Festival makes a welcome return this month, bigger and better than ever and celebrating its tenth anniversary!

Running from Friday 16 to Sunday 18 Octo-

ber, the main festival takes place at Shrewsbury's Old Market Hall cinema and showcases eight LGBT movies. The event also features a whole host of shorts - showing on Saturday the 17th, with even more at The Hive on Sunday the 18th. In addition to

all these great movies, there are Q&As, discussions and visits from some of the films' directors.

To book tickets, visit:

www.rainbowfilmfestival.org.uk or
www.oldmarkethall.co.uk



Friday 16th October, 8pm

The Way He Looks

Blind teenager Leonardo is searching for independence. The arrival of a new student in school changes his life. Leonardo has to deal with the jealousy of his friend, Giovanna, while figuring out the feelings he's having towards new pal Gabriel. A tender and moving film.

Cert 12 Director: Daniel Ribeiro, USA, 2014



Mom's Apple Pie

Saturday 17th October, 1pm

...The Heart of the Lesbian Mother's Custody Movement.

Heroic resistance, pain and heartbreak of forgotten 1970s lesbian custody battles.

Directors: Jody Laine, Shan Ottey, Shad Reinstein, USA, 2006



Raising Hell

Saturday 17th October, 1pm

A documentary film that explores the experiences of children of gay and lesbian parents.

Directors: Ed Webb-Ingall, UK, 2010



Jayson Bend

Saturday 17th October, 4.30pm

LGBT James Bond-styled action comedy. Royal Intelligence is that a satellite will turn the owner of the largest global hair salon chain into one of the most powerful men in the world! Plus Q&A with the director.

Cert TBC Director: Matt Carter, UK, 2014

RAINBOW FILM FESTIVAL

LGBT cinema from across the world

The Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury
Friday 17 October - Sunday 18th October

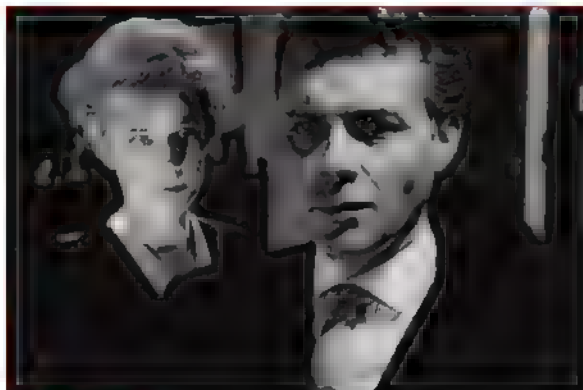


Appropriate Behaviour

Saturday 17th October, 8pm

Shirin struggles to become an ideal Persian daughter, a politically correct bisexual and a hip young woman from Brooklyn. A razor-sharp rom-com - funny, risqué and often excruciatingly honest.

Cert 15 Director: Desiree Akhavan, USA, 2015

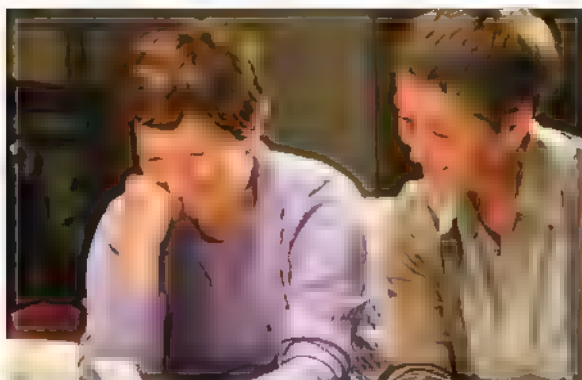


Victim

Sunday 18th October, 1 30pm

Starring Dirk Bogarde and Sylvia Syms. A high-flying barrister is cut down when he confronts the blackmail suffered by gay men in 1960s Britain. Plus Q&A with Peter Scott Presland

Cert 12 Director: Basil Dearden, UK, 1961



For 80 Days

Saturday 17th October, 4 30pm

Where is the thin line that separates friendship from desire? After more than 50 years without seeing each other, two 70-year-old women from the Basque Country dare to cross that line! Includes subtitles

Cert TBC Director: Jon Garaño, Jose Mari Goenaga, Spain, 2010



Boy Meets Girl

Sunday 18th October, 6 30pm

This groundbreaking coming-of-age romantic comedy explores how falling in love transcends gender, and how important it is to live a courageous life without fear standing in the way of your dreams

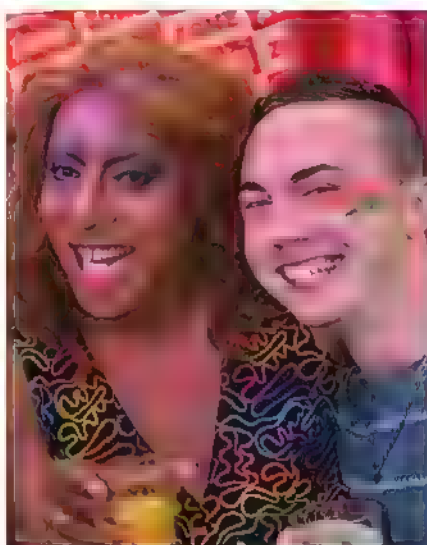
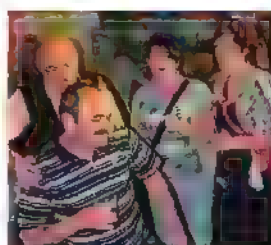
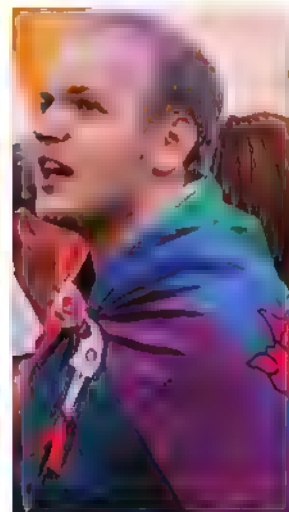
Cert TBC Director: Eric Schaeffer, USA, 2014

For short film listings, visit www.rainbowfilmfestival.co.uk

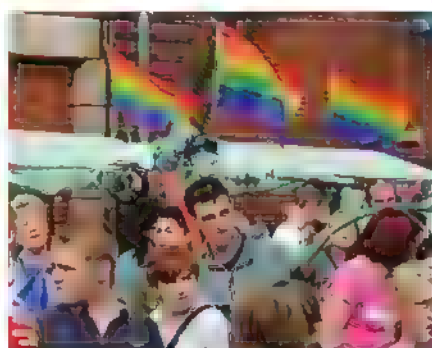
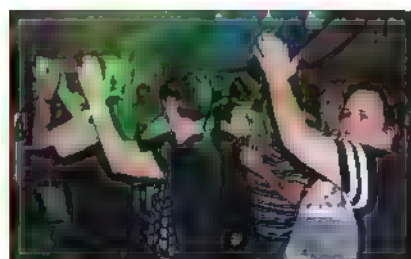
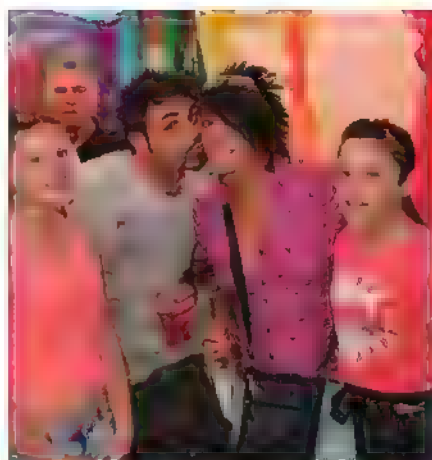
LGBT community come together for **Walsall Pride**

Last month's Walsall Pride attracted many people from the town's LGBT community and beyond.

With a main stage providing entertainment throughout the day and a cabaret stage and nighttime entertainment also playing their part, there really was something for everyone. Organisers hailed the event a huge success, and planning has already begun for 2016's event.



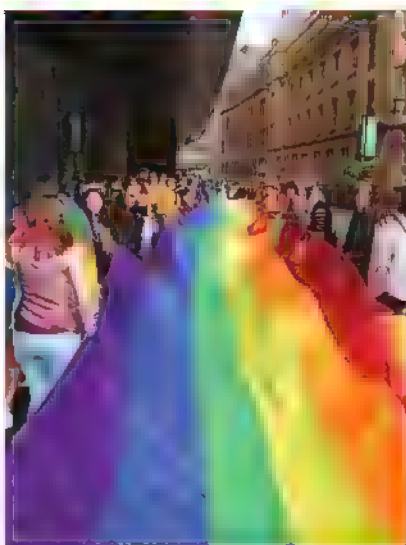
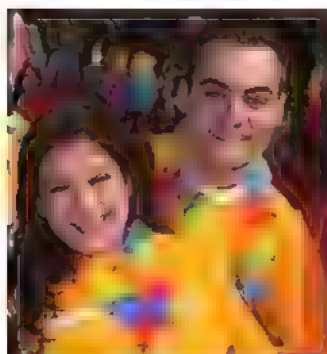
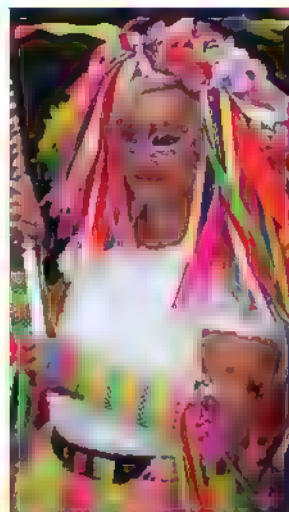
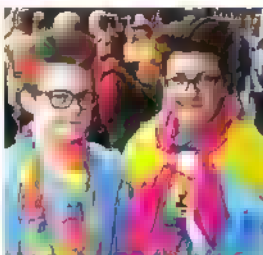
Pictures by Fox & Squirrel



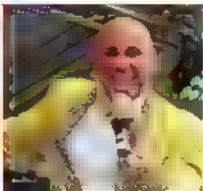
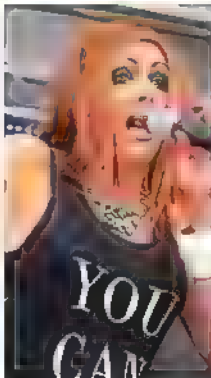
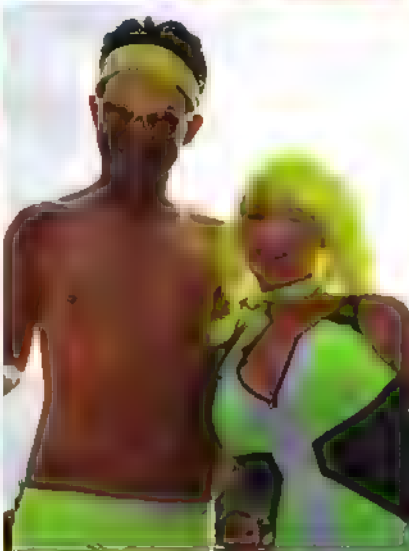
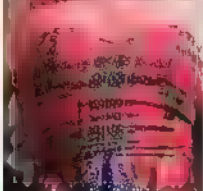
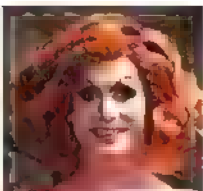
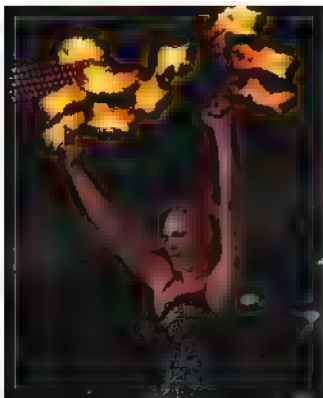
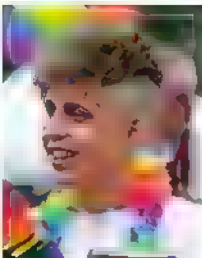
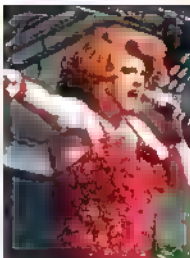
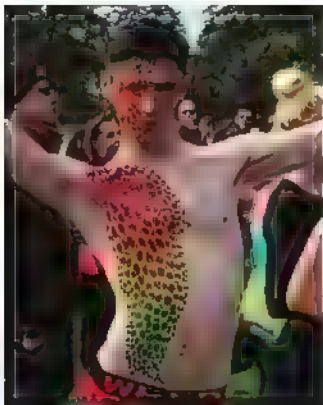
Thousands come out to celebrate at **Leicester Pride**

Thousands of people from across the city of Leicester made their way to Victoria Park to celebrate LGBT life at the annual Pride festival.

The one-day event began with a vibrant winking parade that snaked its way through the city centre to the park. A day of top entertainment followed, with X Factor winner Sam Bailey headlining the festival.



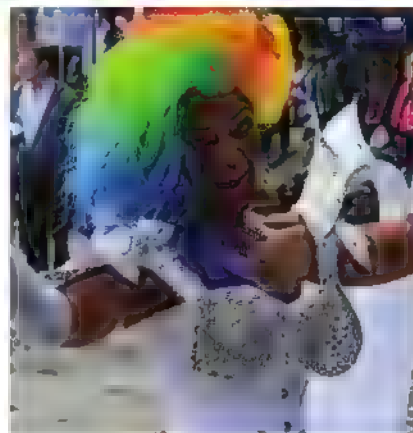
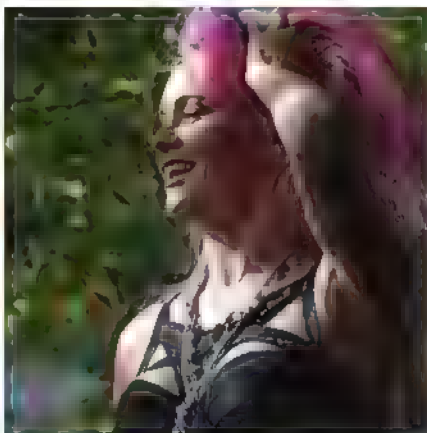
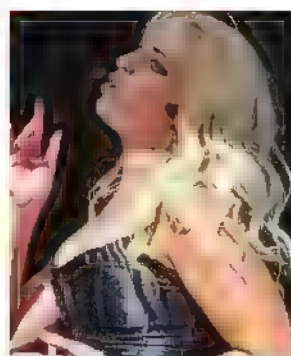
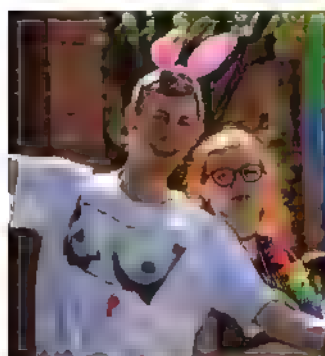
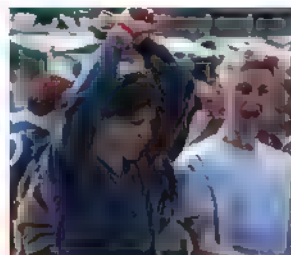
Pictures by Karley Foy, Trevor Sewell, Bradley Burdett & Chris Brookes of Gay Pride Pics



Sunshine and rainbows come out for **Out Derby**

Derby was awash with rainbows and fabulousness last month as the city came together to show just how proud it is!

The city's LGBT community enjoyed a top day of great fun and entertainment kicking off the event with a march through the streets. X Factor star Kitty Bruckner, headlined proceedings. It's safe to say the day was a huge success. Well done to all involved!



Pictures by Fox & Squirrel

Birmingham COMEDY Festival

2-11 Oct
2015

SPONSORED BY



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JASON BYRNE ♦ NOISE NEXT DOOR

IAIN LEE ♦ CASUAL VIOLENCE

BREAKING TALENT AWARD 2015

(FREE) HALF-DAYER & much more

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Wolves Pride heads inside for 2015 LGBT festival

Sunday 3 October

Network House,
School Street,
Wolverhampton

www.lgbtwolverhampton.org.uk

Wolverhampton Pride is being taken indoors this year.

Taking place at Network House on School Street in Wolverhampton, Wolves' Pride Inside will offer a wide range of entertainment, from cabaret to live music, Q&As and community stalls.

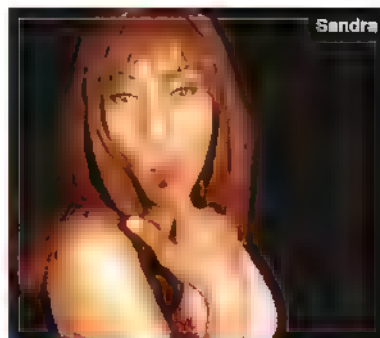
The event will also feature a Queer Q&A on Time, hosted by LGBT and Human Rights campaigner Peter Tatchell, and live music from the likes of Pride regulars Eek and Alex Vann. And for all of you cabaret fans out there, there's a real treat in store. Performing on the day are Miss Penny, Twiggy, Champagne Shirley, Baga Chipz, Pam Catz, the Divine Miss M, and, of course, the one and only Whore of Hampstead Heath herself, Sandra!

All this and more for just £2 on the day!

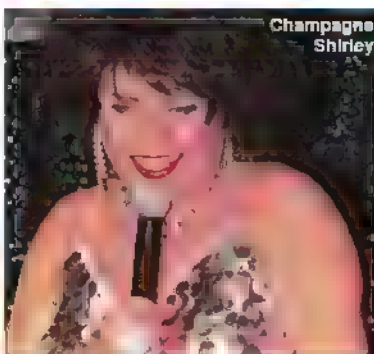
Miss Penny



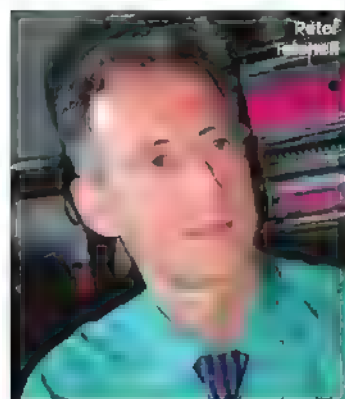
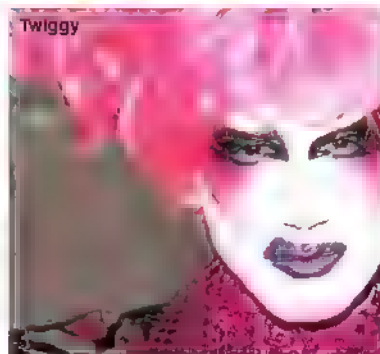
Sandra



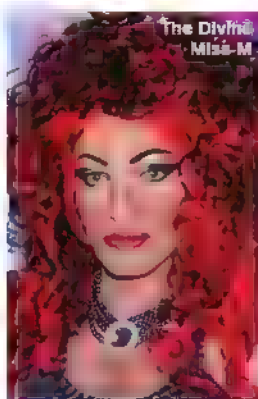
Champagne Shirley



Twiggy



Peter Tatchell



The Divine Miss M

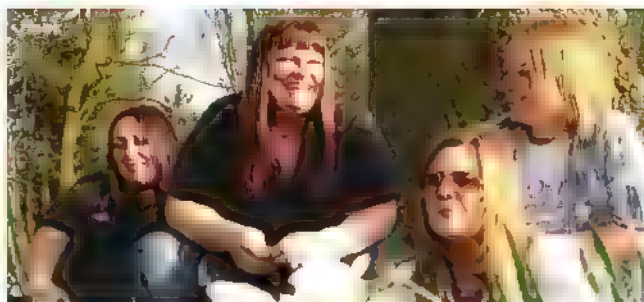
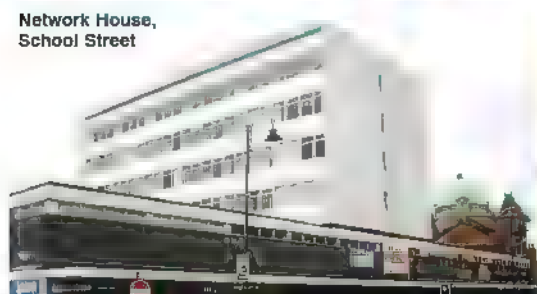


Pam Catz



Baga Chipz

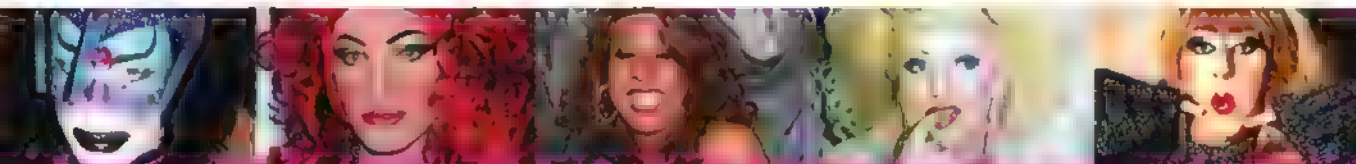
Network House,
School Street





LGBT
NETWORK

serving lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans communities

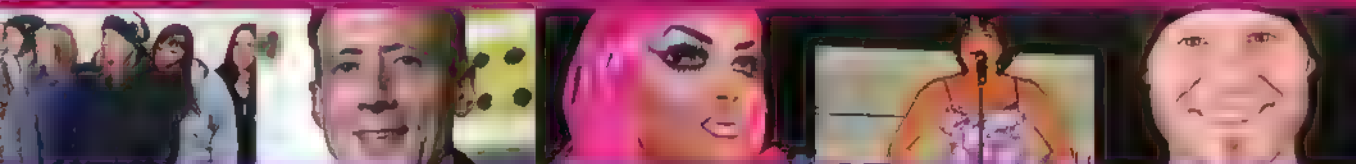


WOLVERHAMPTON PRIDE INSIDE 2015

SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER 1PM

NETWORK HOUSE SCHOOL STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON WV1 1JL

**PETER TATCHELL HOSTING QUEER QUESTION TIME, LGBT GROUPS,
TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE AREA, HEALTH AND WELLBEING AREA,
FAMILIES AREA, OVER 50'S AREA, CABARET STAGE, LIVE MUSIC
STAGE, BARS, TALKS, WORKSHOPS AND MORE...**



RUN BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY

WWW.LGBTWOLVERHAMPTON.ORG.UK // 01902 425092

WIN! A pair of tickets to see Pam Ann!

The world's favourite international air hostess, Pam Ann, is next month flying in from Australia with a brand new show.

Pam Ann's caustic wit knows no boundaries, so fasten your seat belts and prepare for take off - she's Queen of the Sky and it's guaranteed to be a turbulent flight!

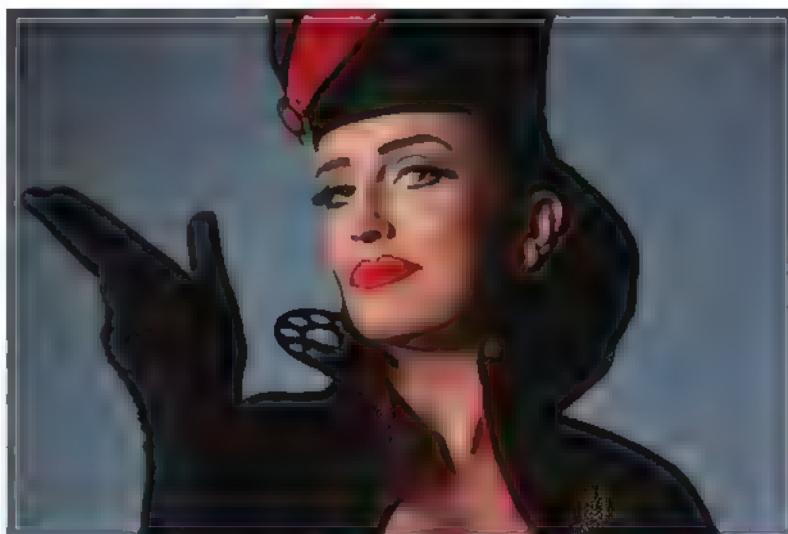
Hilarious, often shocking and totally politically incorrect, Pam Ann keeps things lively and naughtily unpredictable as she takes off her pristine white gloves and delivers an unremitting barrage of shoot-from-the-hip observations.

Pam Ann: Queen of the Sky shows at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on Thursday 19 November at 8pm.

To enter our competition, visit www.midlandszone.co.uk and answer this question

What country is Pam Ann from?

- A) Australia
- B) Thailand
- C) The USA



To enter, simply visit www.midlandszone.co.uk before Friday 30th October

SHROPSHIRE RAINBOW FILM FESTIVAL

IN ASSOCIATION WITH **Spring Out ONH**

16 - 18 OCTOBER 2015

Home-Grown - Sat Morn Shorts*

A selection of short films featuring everything from arm wrestling to a chance encounter on a park bench. A heart warming and occasionally heart wrenching selection of high quality short films produced here in the UK. Several directors will be present to talk about their films.

Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury. 10-15 am

Around The World - Sun Morn Shorts*

A visual journey around the world through some fantastic images and documentaries.

Don't forget your passport and your tickets!

The Hive, 5 Belmont Street, Shrewsbury. 11:00 am

7.30pm: Opening Ceremony.
Shrewsbury Town Mayor, Cllr Miles Kenny

Friday 16th October 8.00pm
THE WAY HE LOOKS 12

Saturday 17th October 1.00pm
Double Screening
followed by discussion
MOM'S APPLE PIE.
THE HEART OF THE LESBIAN MOTHER'S CUSTODY MOVEMENT

RAISING HELL

Saturday 17th October 4.30pm
SOMETHING REAL/DIRTY TALK
JAYSON BEND:
QUEEN & COUNTRY
Plus: Q&A with Matt Carter (Director)

Saturday 17th October 8.00pm
APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR 15

Sunday 18th October, 1.30pm
VICTIM 12
Plus: Q&A with Peter Scott-Presland

Sunday 18th October, 4.30pm
FOR 80 DAYS

Sunday 18th October, 6.30pm
BOY MEETS GIRL

£5/£4 (CONCS) AVAILABLE THROUGH EVENTBRITE*

ZONE

GREG AND MARIA D'AGUIAR
JACKIE STENGLHOPFEN

pride

JONATHAN CUTBELL

WHAT'S ON IN YOUR LOCAL GAY VENUES

OUT

OCTOBER 2015



THERE'S A GHOULY GAY SCENE COMING TO THE MIDLANDS

HALLOWEEN EVENTS GUIDE INSIDE!

ALASKA HEADS TO BRUM

Get ready Drag Race-fans because the one and only Alaska is coming to town!

STOOSHE IN WOLVES

The girl group help launch an all-new Gorgeous Club in Wolverhampton

NEW MEN'S FETISH NIGHT!

There's a brand new men's fetish night heading to Birmingham this month!

TIME FOR A CHANGE OF SCENE... ;)

THE GORGEOUS GRAND OPENING
SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2015

700 CAPACITY | 12 BARS | EXECUTIVE LOUNGE | VIP BOOTHS

STUNNING SOUND & LIGHTING



stoooshe.

THREE AMAZING VENUES... ONE GREAT CITY!
WOLVERHAMPTON'S...



FOR MORE INFO VISIT
WWW.GORGEOUSCLUB.CO.UK

GORGEOUS CLUB | SCHOOL STREET | WOLVERHAMPTON | WV1 4LF | 01902 771122

Excitement builds for **BIRMINGHAM FETISH MEN** at popular venue, Eden Bar!



Guys who like their nights out to be 'on the wild side' should this month head to Eden bar for the venue's brand new monthly event, Birmingham Fetish Men.

Taking place on Sat 3 October, the night's strict dress code includes leather, rubber, sports wear and skin. Plus there's entertainment from La Voix - as you've never seen her before. Eden Birmingham **EDEN - BIRMINGHAM**

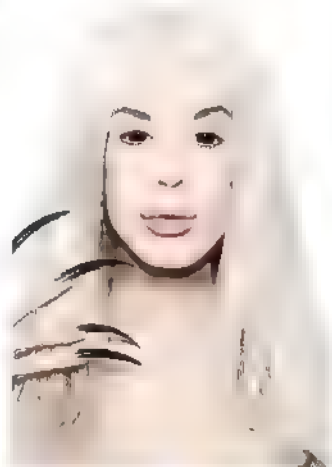
RuPaul's Drag Race star **ALASKA** heads to Brum

For all you RuPaul's Drag Race fans out there, Birmingham gay super-club The Nightingale is continuing its run of Queens from the

BRUM

This month sees Alaska taking to the stage with a live PA and meet-and-greet (Saturday 24 Oct). These events have been amazing in the past, so make sure you don't miss this one. Advance tickets are now on sale at www.theticket sellers.co.uk - so be sure to grab yours before it's too late. See you there

THE NIGHTINGALE - BIRMINGHAM



XXL brings all the boys to the yard for steamy monthly men-only club night

Men-only club night **XXL** returns to Birmingham this month - and it promises to be as good as ever!

Taking place on the third Friday of every month (Friday 16 October), the popular clubbing event sees men from across the Midlands come out to play and party!

The London club night's Midlands event

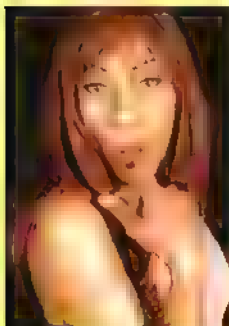
features **XXL**'s resident DJ, Chrisban M playing the best hits and remixes to get the dancefloor packed

And be sure to check out the dark room upstairs while you're there! Have fun, guys!

THE CUBE - BIRMINGHAM



FRIDAY NIGHT CABARET every week at Birmingham bar



If you're out on a Friday night and looking for great cabaret to enjoy, look no further than Birmingham's Village Inn.

Kicking off the venue's October line-up is Lofa Lasagne on Friday the 2nd. The following week sees the Drag With No Name dropping in, with Miss Jason appearing on Friday the 16th and Miss Thunderpussy on Friday the 23rd. And on pay week end, Friday the 30th, it's Sandra who takes to the stage.

THE VILLAGE INN - BIRMINGHAM

STOOSHE head to Wolves for new nightclub launch

Popular girl group **Stooshe** are set to appear at the all-new and recently relocated **Gorgeous Bar & Club** in Wolverhampton.

The three-piece pop group and former Birmingham Pride headliners are set to perform at the venue on Saturday 3 October. At the resident DJs you know and love will be there throughout the

night too.

The new venue, located just across the road from Gorgeous old School Street site, boasts an impressive 700 capacity, two bars, an executive lounge and VIP booths. We're excited to see what's in store for Wolverhampton's gay scene!

GORGEOUS - WOLVERHAMPTON

NEW-LOOK FRIDAYS for Birmingham's Missing Bar

In a bid to keep your weekends fresh, **Missing Bar** in Birmingham has introduced a new-look Friday night.

Join DJ Matt and Gavina for Hit Man & Her. Matt will be playing

all the hits from the decades while host Gavina will be giving away free shots throughout the night. There are great drinks offers too

MISSING BAR - BIRMINGHAM



October
5 12 19 26

MONDAY

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE

MINISTRY OF POUND with DJ Mike Emery from 9pm Selected drinks £1 Open until 2am
MISSING BAR

CABARET WITH BAGA CHIPZ
Every Monday night head down to the Village Inn for a night of fun cabaret with the incredible Baga Chipz! It's not to be missed!
THE VILLAGE INN

SUGAR RUSH £2 entry
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

MONDAY MADNESS Weekly drink offers with DJ Matt Happy Hour until 2am Open 10pm-Late
BAR JESTER

OUTSKIRTS
1st & 3rd Monday month
BAR JESTER

POUNDED Cornish Fish & Chips from 6pm onwards
Drinks £1.50
Open 10pm-Late
SIDEWALK

FABULOUS Fun & Games with resident host Marty (The girl who likes to party) **Mon 5 Oct** - Live cabaret with Vicky Jackson. Free admission before midnight and just £3 after. Great drinks offers all night long with drinks starting at just £1
6:21, SHREWSBURY

THE MONDAY CLUB 9pm-5am Student night Everything is £2 (Shots £1) with DJ Lee Edward
GORGEOUS, WOLVERHAMPTON

CHILL NIGHT with Karaoke
THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

GET THE PARTY STARTED Free admission With DJ Foxy Divine Open 5pm-4am
GOSSIP, STOKE ON TRENT

STUDENT NIGHT Free admission drinks £1.50 before midnight
PINK, STOKE ON TRENT

October
6 13 20 27

TUESDAY

90'S NIGHT - Every Tuesday night 10:30pm-3am
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE

SCREAM STAR SUPERSTAR - With your host karaoke temptress Gavina. Party starts at 9pm till late
MISSING BAR

OPEN YOUR SNATCH Songs Games & Prizes with Miss Penny
THE VILLAGE INN

THE LOW BAR & CLUB, WALSALL

CAMP QUIZ with free bus starts 8:30pm
THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

DIVERSITY Weekly day in the night, with DJ Jay playing everything from old school to the new
VELVET, WORCESTER

FLAUNT A night of fun
BREWERY TAP, WORCESTER

DRY'S TWENTY SEVEN Starts 5pm-11pm
THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

TWISTED TUESDAYS
Rainbows, COVENTRY

EAST MIDLANDS

2 TILL 2 Open 10pm-Late
Drinks £1.50
A friendly atmosphere
THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

CHILL OUT NIGHT From 8pm
midnight
NEW FORESTERS, NOTTINGHAM

DOVER CASTLE, LEICESTER

October
7 14 21 28

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE

2 GOOD 2 MISS Drinks from just £2 with DJ Mike Emery **MISSING BAR**

BACK TO THE FUTURE (PT II) SCREENING **Wed 21 Oct** To celebrate Back to the Future Day, join the team at Eden to watch one of the most popular sci-fi films of all time! If you're a fan, you won't want to miss this
EDEN

LIVE KARAOKE with Charlotte the Harlot
THE VILLAGE INN

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Shots & Tail Feathers at Sidewalk
Cocktail menu
SIDEWALK

DADDY'S DEALS AND FREE POOL Free Pool Open 7-11pm
THE FOX

WACKY WEDNESDAYS Hosted by Hattie James with DJ
Hour until 2am Open 10pm-Late
BAR JESTER

WEDNESDAY LINE Live Dancin' every Wednesday night
THE WELLINGTON

WEST MIDLANDS

DISCO & DJ with DJ
RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

STUDENT CLUB NIGHT Live DJs drinks from 10pm
THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

WACKY WEDNESDAYS Karaoke & DJ
Open 10pm-midnight
RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

EAST MIDLANDS

GAMES NIGHT with DJ
& DJ
NEW FORESTERS, NOTTINGHAM

KARAOKE 9pm-5am
Open 11pm-Late
THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

Charlotte the Harlot

October
10 17 24 31

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE

CHARLIE HIDE **Thurs 1 Oct** Live cabaret from the celebrity impersonator famous for her take Madonna, Cher and more
EDEN

CULT Bringing dirty house back home Top Floor from 10pm
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

CAMPITY CAMP with Marty Happy Hour 12noon-2am
THE VILLAGE INN

I <3 THE 90S - From 8pm with DJ Dan Doors open from 2pm
EDEN

LA VOIX **Thurs 15 Oct** Live cabaret from 10pm with Britain's Got Talent star La Voix!
EDEN

NIKKI GRAHAME **Thurs 29 Oct** Live PA and meet and greet from Big Brother superstar Nikki Grahame
THE VILLAGE INN

POUNDED £5 entry Drinks from a £1 DJ Corey playing chart and dance on whilst Miss Marty and DJ Craig with all the pop and cheese

on the middle floor
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

LAQUISHA JONZ **Thurs 22 Oct** She's jumping back on the £1 Megabus to be back in Brum - it's Laquisha! So cash in your Giros
EDEN

THROWBACK THURSDAY £120 bombs and great music **MISSING**

DROP THE BOMB start of your night £50 on a bomb
SIDEWALK

SHOT EXCHANGE Drinks price up and down random market crashes will have the price meeting but the night is around for
THE CORE

WEST MIDLANDS

12.01 with DJ James Levett Open from Midnight until 5am with drinks from £1
GORGEOUS, WOLVES

THE KARAOKE LOUNGE Free entry Big value drinks with DJ Z
THE LION, WALSALL

DISCO & DJ A night of fun with
THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

A SUMMER OF FUN AT
THE BIGGEST GAY
MONDAY NIGHT IN THE MIDLANDS!

MISS
MARTY

FREE
ENTRY
BEFORE
MIDNIGHT!
10PM-3AM

Jakulans

Join Birmingham's award-winning
'Marty' the girl that likes to party
Every monday from 10pm

MON 5 OCT
**VICKY
JACKSON**


PLUS:
HAPPY HOUR FROM 10PM
DRINKS FROM £1 ALL NIGHT

C:21

MON 2 NOV
SANDRA
THE WHORE OF
HAMPSHIRE
HEATH

18-21 ABBEY FOREGATE, SHREWSBURY, SHROPSHIRE SY2 6AE.
TEL: 01743 271821 WWW.C21SHREWSBURY.CO.UK

THE LOFT LOUNGE



HALLOWEEN

[f loftbirmingham](#)
[t @loftlounge2](#)
[i loftbirmingham](#)
 0121 622 2444

October



BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday. All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two.

THE LOFT LOUNGE

ALL DAY EVERY DAY PRICES DJ Pam, takes over the weekend by playing the best of club classics, house, R&B and all your favourites. Enjoy all day every day prices too!

Evening

BIG GAY FRIDAY Party anthems all night long with Missing's DJ James. Open until the early hours.

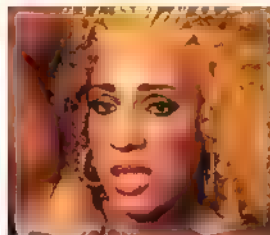
Midnight

SING STAR SUPERSTAR WITH DISCO & KARAOKE with DJ Nikki

Evening

FREAKY FRIDAY Big name cabaret at midnight. Open until 6am. **Fri 2 Oct** Lora Casagne **Fri 9 Oct** Drag With No Name **Fri 16 Oct** Miss Jason **Fri 23 Oct** Miss Thunderpussy **Fri 30 Oct** Sandra

THE VILLAGE INN



INFUSION Free Entry. Absolute Anthems and Floor Fillers with DJ Corey. Drinks from £2. Admission £2.

NIGHTINGALE CLUB

KICK START Kick start the weekend from 9pm till the early hours. Hosted by James.

Midnight

LBR With Charlotte the Harlotte. Open until 6am every Friday.

THE VILLAGE INN

LIP GLOSS - Fri 2 Oct - With host Miss Penny. Live entertainment, stripper, topless waiter, buffet and raffle. Every first Friday of the month.

Evening

MIDSBARS - Fri 16 Oct - Monthly meet up and social group for Bears and Admirers with special drinks offers all night.

EDEN BAR

OLD SKOOL GARAGE The first Friday of the month sees the Nightingale go back in time, playing some of the best old skool garage. A night not to be missed.

NIGHTINGALE CLUB

SAATHI - Fri 30 Oct - Every last Friday monthly. South Asian Gay and Lesbian club night. Bollywood and Bhangra.

NIGHTINGALE CLUB

SING STAR SUPERSTAR with DJ

Nikki every Friday - your chance to win cash.

Evening

VINTAGE FRIDAYS a night of soul, funk, rock, motown, Northern Soul and all the classic favourites.

THE LOFT LOUNGE

XXL - Fri 16 July - Men only night with DJ Christian M. Early Bear offers until 11pm. Every 3rd Friday of each month.

THE CORE CLUB

FUNK'D UP

CLUB CHIC

KARAOKE

THE FOX

RETRO FRIDAY

BAR JESYER

WEST MIDLANDS

YOLO! Gorgeous residents spinning house and classics. Earlybird drinks from £1.50 with free entry before 11pm. 10.30pm - 5.30am.

GORGEOUS CLUB, WOLVERHAMPTON

BANG

THE LION, WALSALL

TV PARTY NIGHT

THE GREENHOUSE, DARLSTON

CLUB NIGHT

THE THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

FREE ENTRY FRIDAYS

RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

FRIDAY SOCIAL

THE BELL, STOJBRODGE

WEEKLY CABARET

THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

START THE WEEKEND

PINK, STONE ON TRENT

TFI FRIDAY

BREWERY TAP, WORCESTER

EAST MIDLANDS

CLUB NIGHT

Helsinki, LEICESTER

FUNK PRUNDER

THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

BIRMINGHAM

80S HITS with Du Dan from 2am
t's back to the 80s
EDEN BAR

THE ATTIC Available for hire. Call
the venue for more info 0121 622
4256
THE ATTIC

BFM - Sat 3 Oct - The launch of
Birmingham Fetish Men. Strict
fetish code in the Eden Marquee
from 9pm. Leather, rubber, sports
and skin. Special guest La Voix as
never seen before
EDEN BAR

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT Over 2
floors 3 Djs. Open till 8am. With
Du Loty & Du Richard Moon. With
Du Tonia in The Village
Underground
THE VILLAGE INN

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT Every
Saturday, with loads of drinks pro-
motions
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

CULT Bringing dirty house back
home. Top Floor from 10pm
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

FABULOUS SATURDAYS Get the
red carpet treatment with your host
and hostess Cherib and Miss
Hallie James keeping you enter-

tained with podium dances and
fantastic music. Entry £5. 10pm
until 3am with the first 25 cus-
tomers having FREE ENTRY
THE CORE CLUB

KARAOKE & COCKTAILS in The
Attic plus music from across the
decades
MISSING

LBR With Charlotte the Harlotte
Open until 8am every Saturday
THE VILLAGE INN

YOUR DISCO

MEET YOU

featuring the
biggest
remixes,
absolute
anthems
dance clas-
sics, disco
house and
commercial.
Featuring
Twiggy and
sexy door
boys. Open until 4am
MISSING BAR



ALASKA - Sat 24 Oct - Live PA from
RuPaul's Drag Race star Alaska.
Tickets from
www.theticketseilers.co.uk
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

SATURDAY SESSIONS With

DJ Simon Baker from 8pm
THE LOFT LOUNGE

SATURS-FACTION Welcome in the
weekend with resident DJ, playing
the best of everything.
SIDEWALK

SWAGGERLICIOUS Every Saturday
night (Room 4)
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

THE BREAKFAST CLUB Every
Saturday
CLUB CHIC

DJ PARTY NIGHT

THE FOX

#JUST SAYING C

BAR JESTER

KARAOKE Every

THE WELLINGTON

WEST MIDLANDS

SLAG 10pm-6am. Earlybird drinks
from £1.50. Du Paul Bryant, James
Levett & Josh B. Plus weekly
guests.
GORGEOUS, WOLVERHAMPTON

BIG NIGHT OUT Big Djs.

assies in the cabaret. pounce
THE LION, WALSALL

CLUB NIGHT Drink promos

THE THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT
& Charts. Open midday 4pm &
9pm-3am
RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

INCLUSION with big name
Birmingham & JK Djs every wee-
THE BELL, STOKES

NOT TO MISS Free adm

PINK, STONE ON TRENT

WEEKLY CABARET
Cabaret at 12.30a
THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

EAST MIDLANDS

BIG WINTER PARTY NIGHT

from 9pm. Free entry
from £3 before 1am and £5
THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

CLUB NIGHT C E

CLUB NIGHT F
midnight, £6 after
HELIX, LEICESTER

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Sunday to
Friday. All day & night. Wind down
after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE

**SING STAR SUPERSTAR WITH DISCO
& KARAOKE** with Du Nikk. Every
Sunday
EDEN BAR

LOCAL CABARET with Charlotte
the Harlotte. Showcasing the best
of the Midlands cabaret circuit
every Sunday
THE VILLAGE INN

MISS PENNY'S SUPERSIZE SUNDAYS
Cabaret every Sunday hosted by
the one and only Miss Penny on
stage at 8.30pm and 10.30pm
MISSING BAR

SUNDAY BREAKFAST The perfect
hangover cure from 9am. Just
£7.95. Carvery from 12noon for
just £9.95
THE LOFT LOUNGE

SUPER SUNDAY DINNER served

only £6.95

SIDEWALK

CHILL OUT LOFT

THE FOX

SUNDAY IS FUNDAY with
1800V HOUR until 2am. 10pm
Open
BAR JESTER

THREE COURSE LUNCH only £7.50
THE WELLINGTON

WEST MIDLANDS

MARTY'S PARTY 9pm-4am. Fun &
Games. Karaoke. Prizes and al-
round mayhem. Drinks from £2
GORGEOUS, WOLVERHAMPTON

CHILL OUT After the party
RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

THE PARTY LOUNGE

THE PARTY LOUNGE

LION BAR & CLUB, WALSALL

KARAOKE & CLUB

THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

CLUB NIGHT

THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

EAST MIDLANDS

BRUNCH CLUB

BRUNCH CLUB

RAINBOW & DOVE, LEICESTER

SOUND & GAMES COMEDY DRINKS

PAM ANN

QUEEN OF THE SKY

THUR 19th NOV
BIRMINGHAM
NEW ALEXANDRA
THEATRE
ATGTICKETS.COM

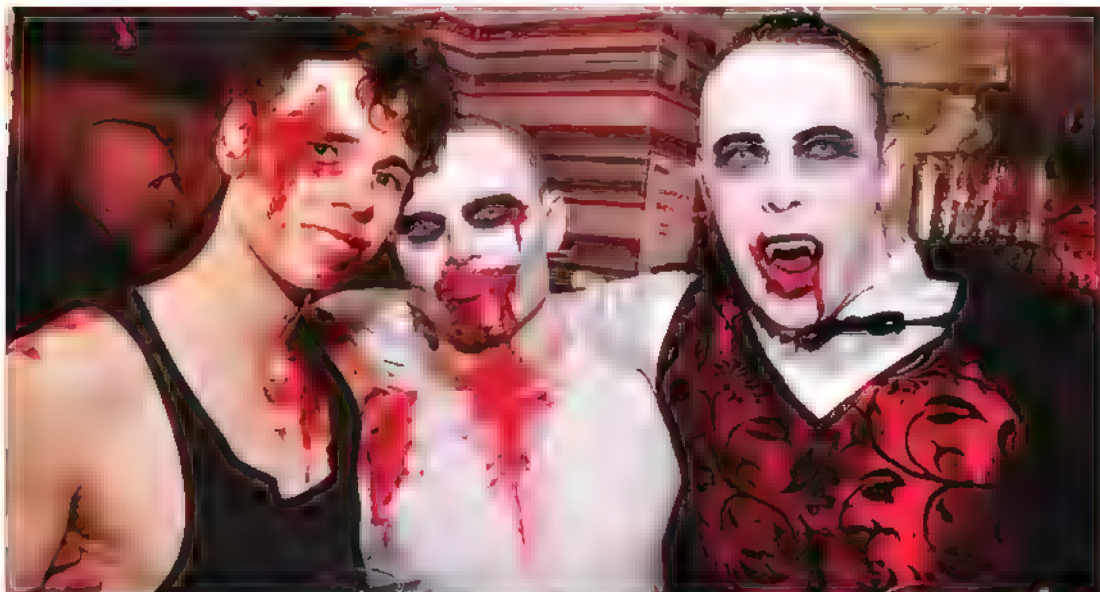
SAT 21st NOV
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PLAYHOUSE
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SEEKTICKETS.COM

WARNING: THIS SHOW CONTAINS JOKES THAT SOME PEOPLE MAY FIND OFFENSIVE

Sound & Games Comedy www.soundandgamescomedy.co.uk

GHOULISH HALLOWEEN EVENTS ON THE GAY SCENE!



One of the most anticipated nights of the year on the Midlands gay scene is Halloween! It's a chance for you and your friends to crack open the fancy dress box and wear something gruesome and ghoulish (or, as seems to have been the case in previous years, pretty much nothing at all!).

From Spooky Cocktails in swanky bars to full club transformations, fancy dress competitions where you can win hundreds of pounds and a bit of cabaret for good

measure, there really is something for everyone!

Take a look at our guide to just some of the many events taking place across the Midlands gay scene.

Our photographer will be out and about on the big night, Saturday 31 October, and we'll be showcasing the best of the scene in our December issue.

Be creative with your costumes because there's money to be won in some venues!

FRI 30 OCT

SPOOKY COCKTAILS Start your Halloween night out in style with Spooky Cocktails all weekend.

THE LOFT LOUNGE, BIRMINGHAM

MISS M'S MIDNIGHT MASSACRE The start of Missing's weekend of Halloween fun.

MISSING, BIRMINGHAM

SAT 31 OCT

FRIGHT NIGHT The guys at The Nightingale love a Halloween party, so they're back with Fright Night. Giving away a whopping £1,000 in cash for their fancy dress competition. Plus entertainment from Marty and the Housewives of Birmingham.

THE NIGHTINGALE, BIRMINGHAM

MARY MAC & MYRA DUBOIS Celebrate Halloween with a bit of fun and laughter. Eden

Bar in Birmingham will be hosting the show with a bit of top notch Halloween cabaret! Free entry all night long!

EDEN, BIRMINGHAM

SPOOKY COCKTAILS Start your Halloween night out in style with Spooky Cocktails all weekend.

THE LOFT LOUNGE, BIRMINGHAM

HALLOWEEN FEST A super spooky night out with Twiggy and the Gruesome Twosome! Come along if you dare.

MISSING, BIRMINGHAM

HALLOWEEN TRICK OR TREAT

Start your Halloween night out in style with Spooky Cocktails all weekend.

SEAWALK, BIRMINGHAM

HALLOWEEN MONSTER BALL

Start your Halloween night out in style with Spooky Cocktails all weekend.

Start your Halloween night out in style with Spooky Cocktails all weekend.

CLUB CHIC, BIRMINGHAM

HALLOWEEN BALL

Start your Halloween night out in style with Spooky Cocktails all weekend.

THE LION BAR & CLUB, WALSALL

SUN 1 NOV

SPOOKY COCKTAILS Start your Halloween night out in style with Spooky Cocktails all weekend.

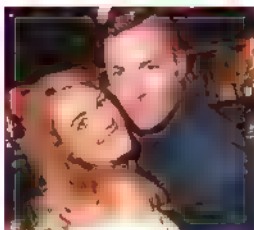
THE LOFT LOUNGE, BIRMINGHAM

DOUBLE CABARET

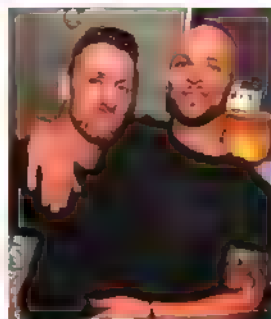
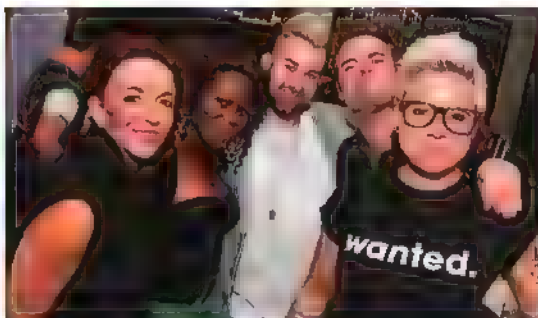
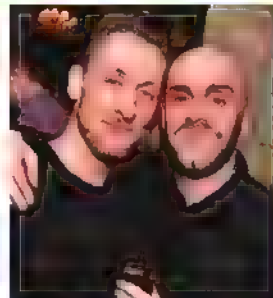
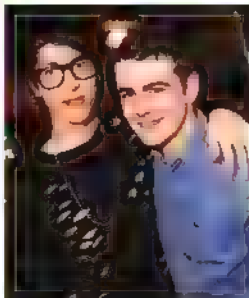
Halloween cabaret with La Queeta.

MISSING, BIRMINGHAM

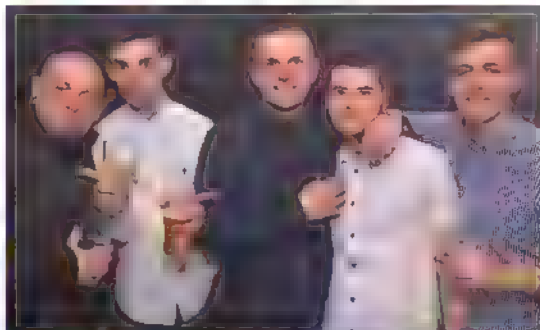
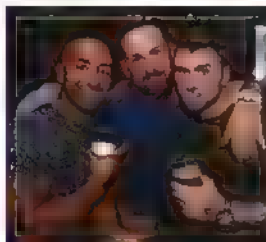
It's cocktail time at Birmingham's **The Loft Lounge**



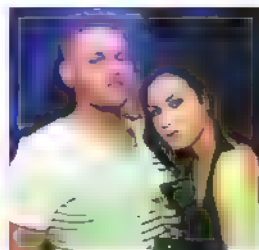
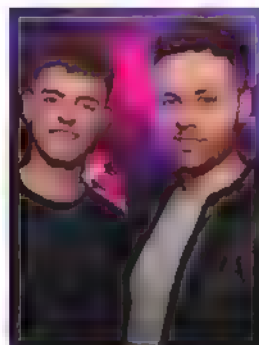
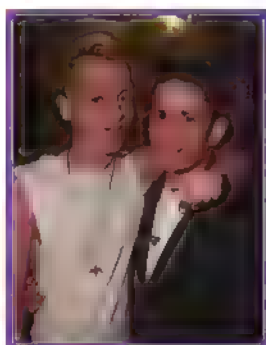
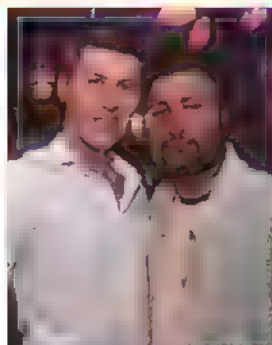
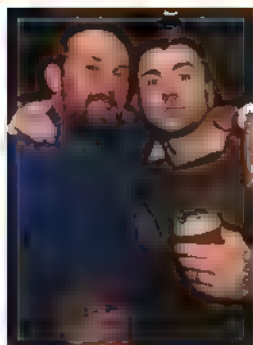
More great photos on facebook



Party until the early hours at **Gorgeous** in Wolves!



More great photos on **facebook**
facebook.com/midlandszone.co.uk



Pictures by **Laura Byrne**

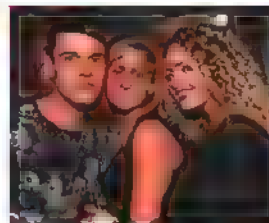
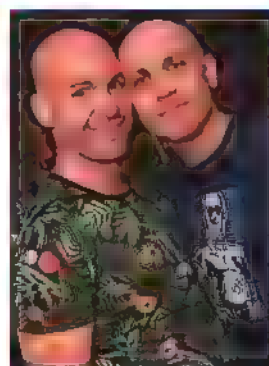
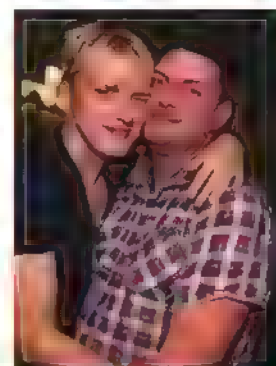
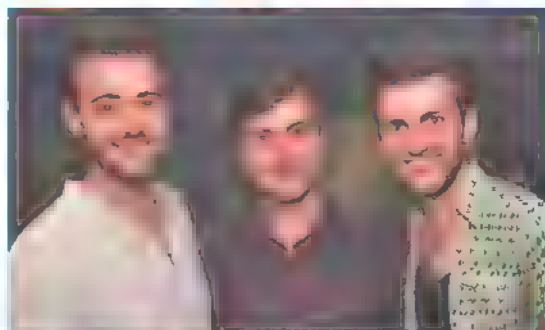
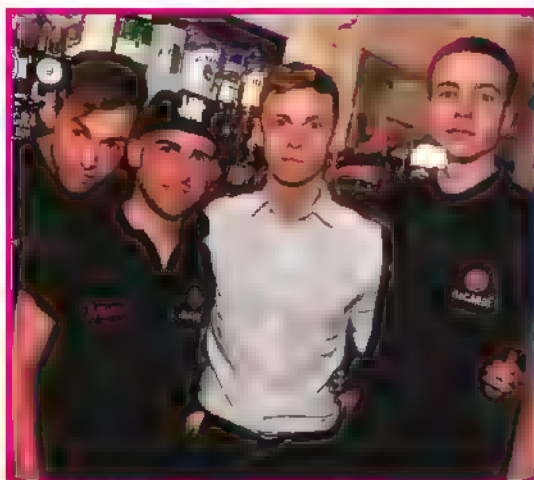
THE UK'S
BIGGEST REGIONAL
GAY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

READ MIDLANDS ZONE ON THE GO!



@ WWW.MIDLANDSZONE.CO.UK

There's always a party on at Brum's Missing!



Missing

Missing

HALLOWEEN WEEKEND

OCTOBER 30

FRIDAY

MISS M'S
MIDNIGHT MASSACRE

OCTOBER 31

SATURDAY

HALLOWEEN FEST
WITH TWIGGY
AND THE GRUESOME TWOSOME

NOVEMBER 1

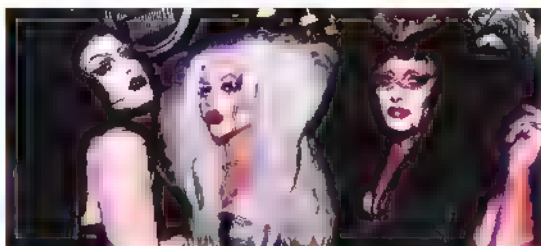
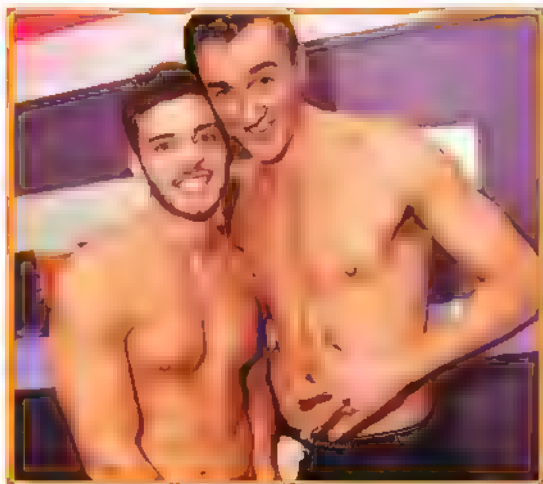
SUNDAY

DOUBLE CABARET
WITH AMY LA QUEEFA

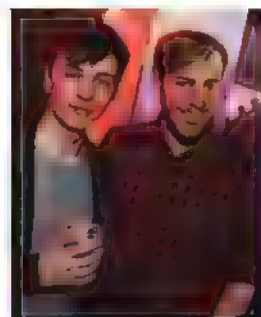
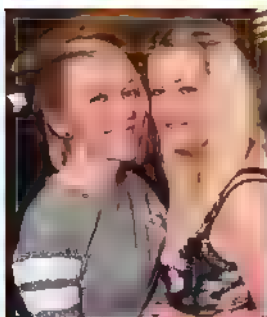
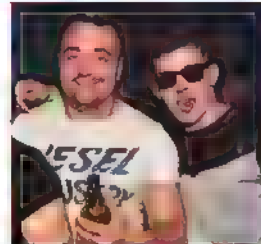
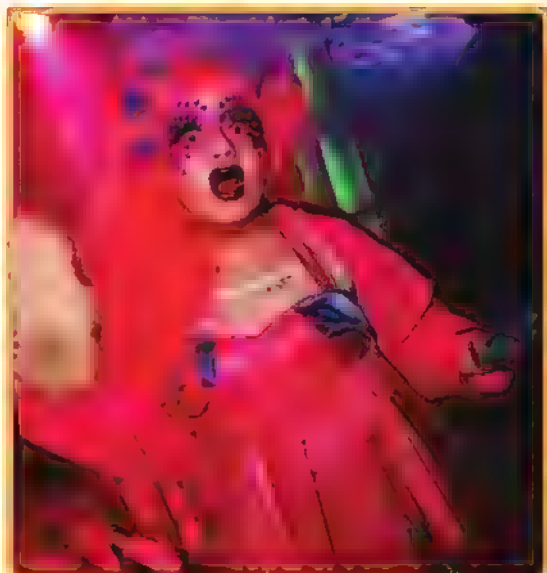
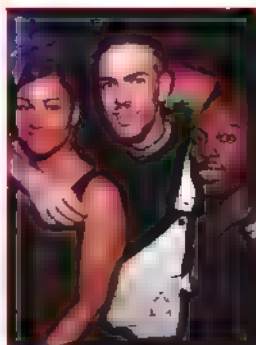


MISSING BAR, 48 BROMSGROVE ST, BIRMINGHAM, B5 0121 622 4256

Birmingham's **The Nightingale** is a great place to party!

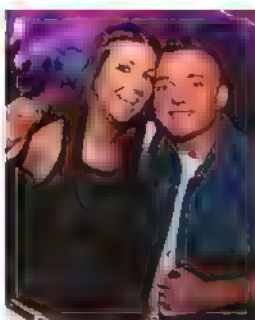
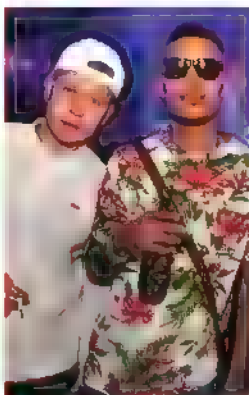
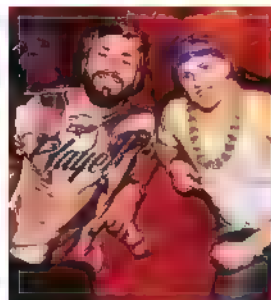
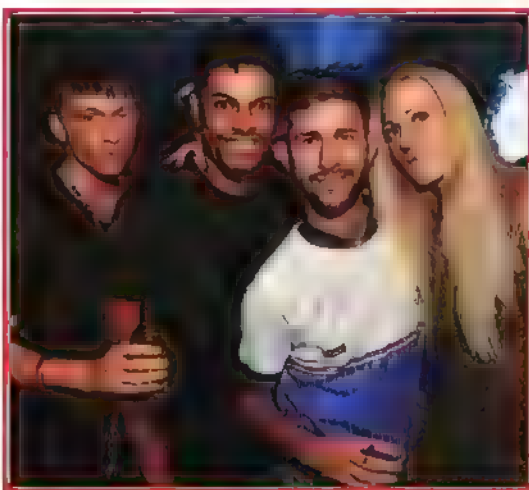


More great photos on [Facebook](#)

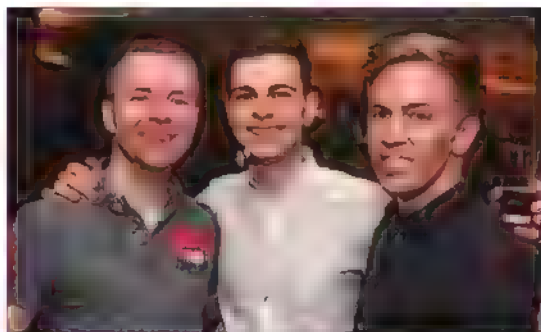


Clubbing in [Leamington](#)

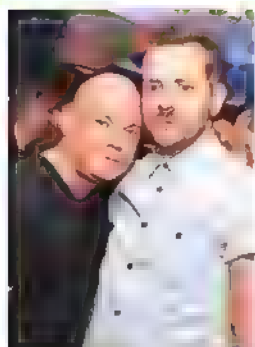
Birmingham know how to party at **The Dance Arena**



The men of the Midlands love Birmingham's **Eden**



More great photos on **facebook**
facebook.com/midlandszone.co.uk



Pictures by **Laura Byrne**

edenedeneden

OCTOBER

edenedeneden

Open from 2pm every day. 115 Snowdon Street Birmingham B5 6NB 0121 422 1953 | www.theedenbar.co.uk

**THURS
1st**

Charlie Hides is an award winning cabaret artist, YouTube sensation and man of 1,000 faces.

**FRI
2nd***Lip Gloss*

with your host MISS PENNY

With top Cabaret

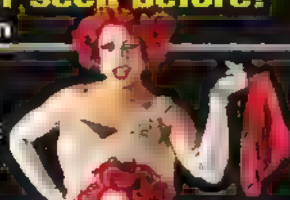
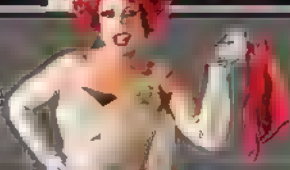


Champagne reception, Topless waiter, Raffle, Buffet,

And Sexy Stripper

**SAT
3rd**

The launch of Birmingham Fetish Men. **STRICT Fetish Dress Code.** In the Marquee from 9pm: Leather-Rubber-Sports-Skin **Special Guest LA VOIX as never seen before!**
 Birmingham Fetish Men @Bfetishmen

**SAT
10th****La Voix**FROM 10PM
DON'T MISS ME
MY DARLINGS!**THURS
15th****La Voix**FROM 10PM
DON'T MISS ME
MY DARLINGS!**FRIDAY
16th**

MidsBears
Monthly Meet
In the Marquee
Special Drinks
Offers All Night

ZONEWINNER - Best Midlands
Gay Venue for Men**WED
21st****SCREENING OF
BACK TO THE FUTURE****PART II****THURS 22nd***Liquisha Jones***SAT 31st HALLOWEEN**

Mary Mac
Myra Dubois

**SING STAR
SUPERSTAR**
IS BACK!
Starting Fri 2nd
Then every
Fri & Sun
Final - Jan 2016

EVERY THURS

90s HITS WITH
DJ DAN
GREAT ATMOSPHERE

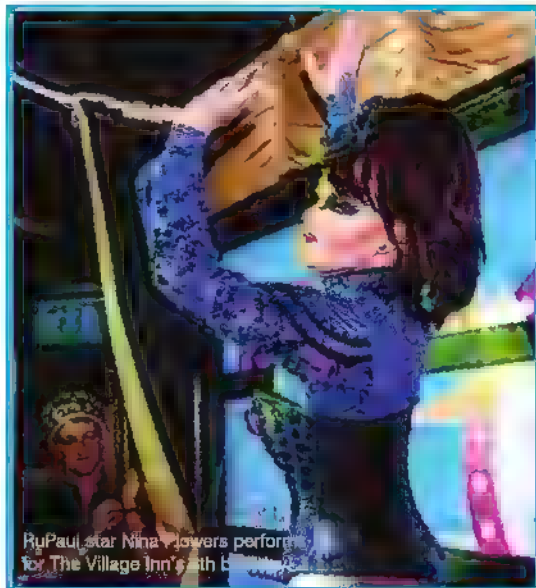
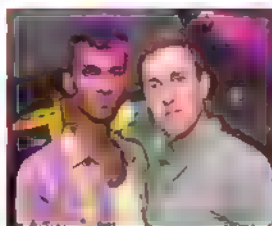
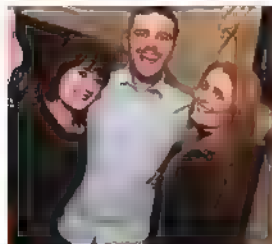
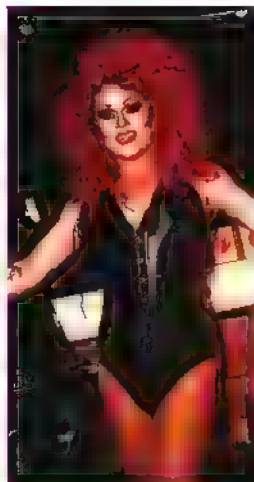
EVERY FRI & SUN

KARAOKE &
DISCO DJ NIKKI
COME ALONG & SING
WITH A FRIENDLY
REGULAR CROWD

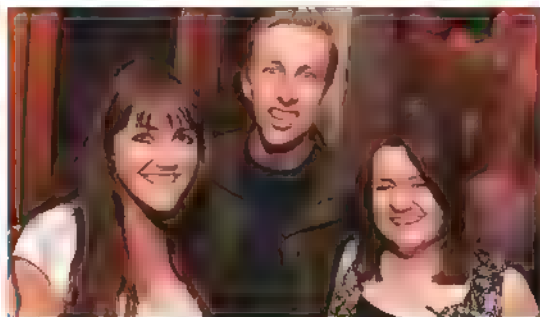
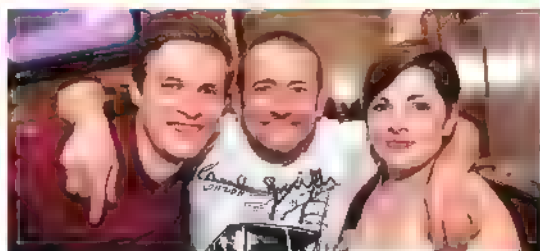
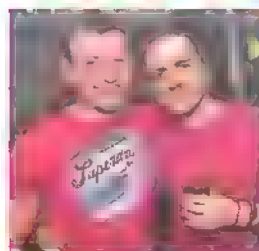
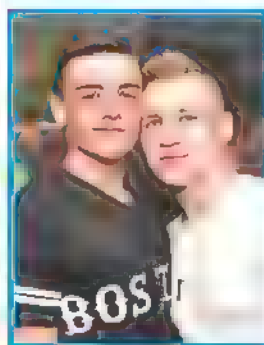
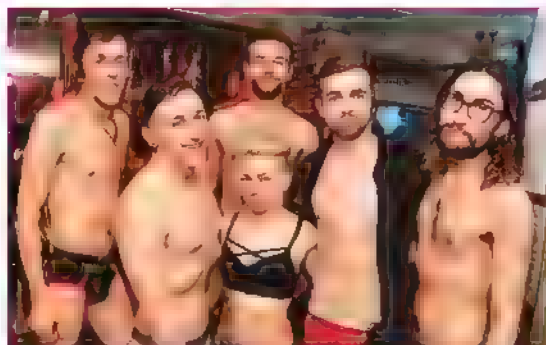
EVERY SAT

80s HITS WITH
DJ DAN
POP & DANCE TILL 2
30s FROM 2-4 AM

Get set for a great night out at Brum's **The Village Inn**



More great photos on **facebook**
facebook.com/midlandszone.co.uk



Pictures by Laura Byrne

THE VILLAGE INN

SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER

£500 FANCY DRESS COMPETITION

FRIDAY 2ND
OCTOBER

LOLA
LASAGNE

FRIDAY 9TH
OCTOBER

DRAG WITH
NO NAME

FRIDAY 16TH
OCTOBER

MISS JASON

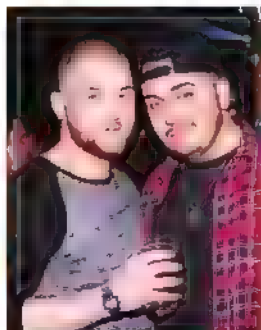
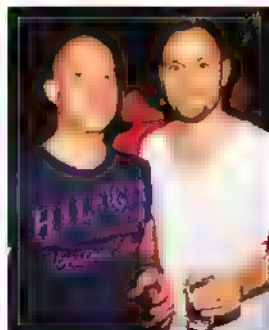
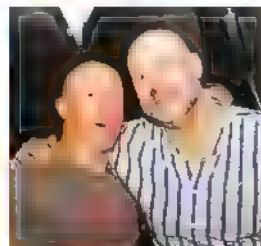
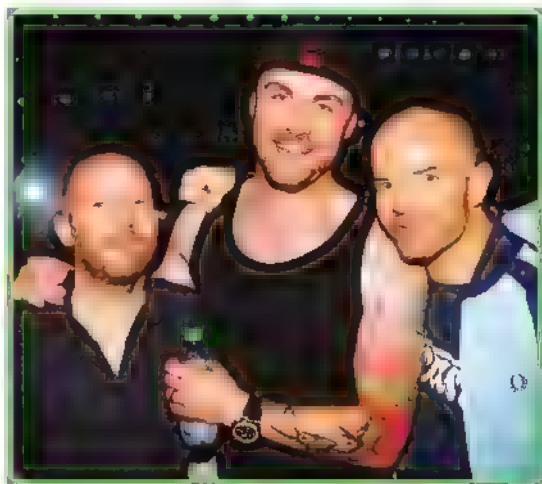
FRIDAY 23RD
OCTOBER

MISS
THUNDERPUSSY

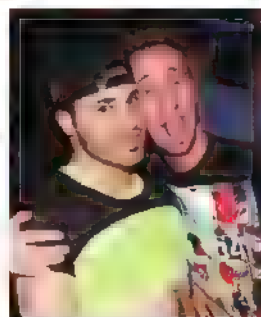
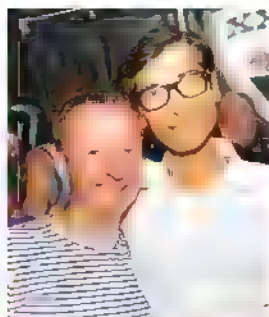
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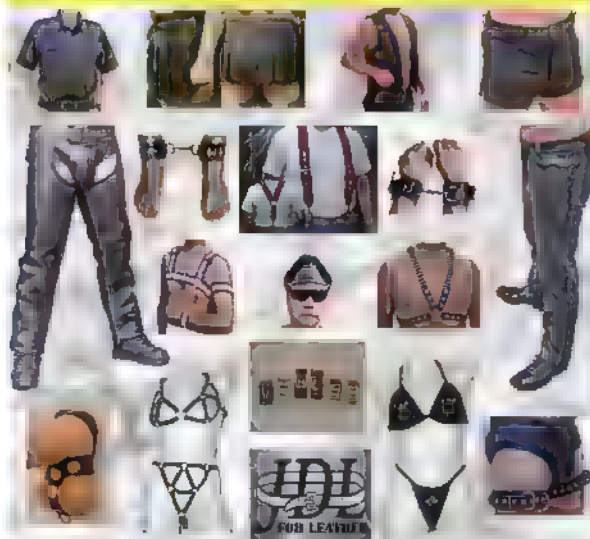
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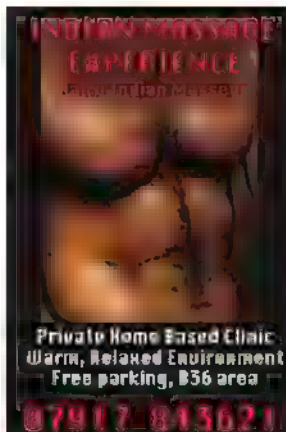
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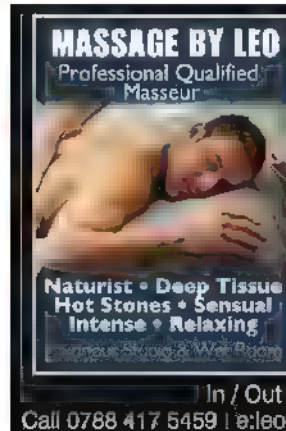
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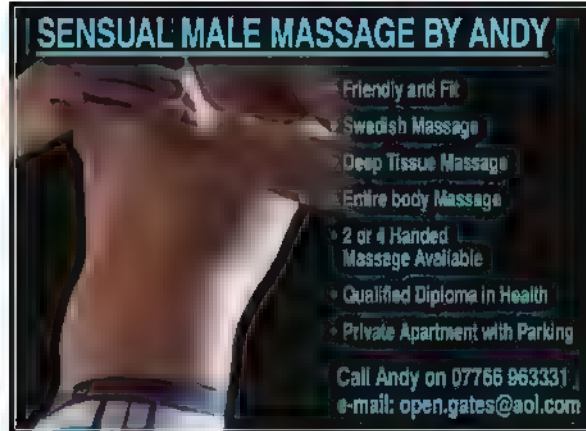
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THE EDITOR'S NOTE by Ryan Humphreys

Let's talk about sex...

Welcome to the October issue of Midlands Zone magazine. With the nights drawing in and the temperatures dropping, we hope we've got plenty to keep you interested and entertained as you batten down the hatches and settle in for an evening by the fireside...



The Way He Looks screens at the Rainbow Film Festival

Fantastic film fun

...Alternatively you could brave any inclement weather that happens along and make sure you attend this month's Shropshire Rainbow Film Festival, an event which annually showcases some of the best LGBT cinema from across the world.

Following on from its previous successes, the festival is this year celebrating its tenth anniversary. Alongside eight full-length LGBT movies, the 16 to 18 October event also includes a whole host of shorts, Q&As, discussions and visits from some of the films' directors.

If you love movies and you're proud to be LGBT, this is one event you really won't want to miss...

PrEP an NHS reality?

Along with all manner of other organisations, outlets and companies, Midlands Zone has welcomed the peer-reviewed publication of the PROUD study that proves PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) effectively prevents HIV.

Publication of the data means that the ground-breaking daily pill could soon be an NHS reality.

Commenting on the development, Dr Michael Brady, the Medical Director of HIV charity Terrence Higgins Trust, said: "The efficacy of this treatment as a HIV-prevention tool is clear. We're

campaigning for PrEP to be available on the NHS. For this to happen, the treatment needs to be approved by NHS England, and the publication of the impressive PROUD results in a peer review journal will support this process."

An Umbrella service...

And while we're on the subject of all things medical, a new sexual health service named Umbrella is now delivering improved support for LGBT people across Birmingham and Solihull.

You can order free self-sampling kits - which will test for HIV, chlamydia, syphilis, Hep B and gonorrhoea - locate your nearest clinic or book an appointment via the website at: umbrellahealth.co.uk.

Out and proud...

Just enough space left to register our admiration for Keegan Hirst and Sam Stanley, two professional rugby players who've recently made the decision to come out. Deciding to leave the closet is rarely an easy matter - even in these more enlightened times - and is surely made all the trickier when you're a professional sportsman. Keegan and Sam deserve congratulations for taking what must've been a massive step. Let's hope that other sports stars decide to follow their example...



ON THE BALL

with Steve Ball

Trump Card

I was working in the US last month. At the time, media here in the UK was dominated by Jeremy Corbyn's campaign for the leadership of the Labour Party. Political commentators and public alike were gripped by the unlikely series of events that led the 200-to-1 left wing outsider to victory.

When I arrived in Philadelphia, the TV news was giving wall-to-wall airtime to another political outsider, the Republican billionaire Donald Trump. Both he and Corbyn are considered by their supporters to be authentic, plain-speaking and anti-establishment men of the people - but there, the similarity ends.

Whilst Corbyn has championed the cause of LGBT equality and filled half of his shadow cabinet positions with women, Trump has defended calling women "fat pigs" and "disgusting animals", and recently implied that Megyn Kelly of Fox TV News had asked him tough questions because she was menstruating.

His views on the LGBT community appear more tolerant, but he recently told reporters that the imprisonment of Kim Davis - the Kentucky county clerk who was jailed for defying a federal judge's order to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples - had "broken" his heart.

Our hosts in the three cities we visited - Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and Baltimore - were some of the most warmhearted and liberal-minded people you could wish to meet. They were concerned about Syria and the refugee crisis, and they were proud that their cities have some of the best records in North America for taking in refugees. Many were curious about the state of politics in the UK and fascinated with Jeremy Corbyn's campaign. Even stalwarts of the Democratic Party were saying they were looking to the UK as the start of a new movement for authenticity and grass-roots involvement in politics.

But while we met many engaging and progressive people, we didn't have to look far to find the flip side of the coin. It was impossible to watch TV news in my hotel without finding the channels and programmes dominated by Trump. This is a man who understands how to work the media. We were told that, to date, he hasn't spent a single dollar on campaigning, and that it was likely he might continue without needing to.

Is Trump a joke? Absolutely not. He has many of the same characteristics as Bush but without the smooth rhetoric. Surely his campaign will end by crashing and burning? You can't guarantee it! The Republican Party elite might not like him, but in this age of cheap entertainment and non-enlightenment, he could make it all the way to the White House.

Corbyn's leadership of the Labour Party is controversial and has split apart the progressives and the political left. But we should be raising the roof for one thing. In our country, the outsiders are rooting for us and not trying to destroy us.

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